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**Statement by the State of Palestine at the Universal Periodic Review of Lithuania, 26th of January 2022:**

Thank you, Mr. President,

The State of Palestine welcomes the delegation of Lithuania and commends the steps taken by the Government since the second cycle of the UPR to promote and protect human rights.

We also commend the efforts made in combating hate speech and hate crimes, including through implementing the project ‘Strengthening the Response to Hate Crimes and Hate Speech in Lithuania”, and we recommend that Lithuania continue its efforts in this regard and to improve its legal and institutional frameworks for protection against discrimination especially towards vulnerable and minority groups.

In regards to business and human rights, we recommend that Lithuania ensures its policies, legislation, regulations and enforcement measures effectively serves to prevent and address the heightened risk of business involvement in abuses in conflict situations, which includes situations of foreign occupation.

We wish Lithuania a successful review.

I thank you.