**Statement by the State of Palestine at the Universal Periodic Review of Barbados, 19th of January 2018:**

Thank you Mr. President,

The State of Palestine welcomes the delegation of Barbados to the third cycle of the UPR and thanks it for the presentation of its national report.

We commend the government’s commitment to promote and protect human rights, and we encourage them to extend a standing invitation to special procedure mechanisms.

We welcome the efforts made by the government of Barbados in empowering women and realizing equality and equity for women and men, including through drafting a National Policy on Gender, and we recommend that Barbados continues its efforts to strengthen the understanding of equality of women and men and ensure equal rights and opportunities for women.

We also commend Barbados for the steps taken in regard to education in particular to children with disabilities, and we recommend that Barbados continue its efforts in ensuring that persons with disabilities had equal access to education and health services.

We wish Barbados a successful review.

I thank you.