**Statement by the State of Palestine at the Universal Periodic Review of France, 15th of January 2018:**

Thank you Mr. President,

The State of Palestine welcomes the delegation of France and we thank them for the comprehensive presentation of their national report. And we commend the government’s commitment to promote and protect human rights.

We welcome the efforts made by France in combating and preventing all forms of discrimination including the National Action Plan. We recommend that France continue its efforts, improve its legal and institutional frameworks for protection against discrimination and to foster a culture of equality, tolerance and mutual respect by ensuring the same level of protection for all grounds of discrimination.

We also commend the steps taken by France in the scoop of business and human rights by adopting a National Plan of Action for implementation of the UNGP on Business and Human Rights in 2017. In this regard, we recommend that France strengthen oversight over French companies operating abroad with regard to any negative impact of their activities on the enjoyment of human rights, particularly in conflict areas, which includes situations of foreign occupation, where there are heightened risks of human rights abuses.

We wish France a successful review.

I thank you.