**Statement by the State of Palestine at the Universal Periodic Review of Romania 16th January 2018.**

Thank you Mr. Vice President,

The State of Palestine welcomes the delegation of Romania and thanks it for the presentation of its national report.

We commend the progress made by Romania since the previous UPR cycles, to further promote and protect the human rights of its people.

We have noticed the efforts made by Romania to combat discrimination, however we remain concerned about incidents of racist hate crimes against Roma and the negative stereotypes in public and political discourse. **We recommend that Romania continues to address negative prejudices and stereotypes, which are among the main causes of systemic discrimination and social exclusion experienced by Roma.**

We welcome steps taken by the Romanian Government with regard to business and human rights. **We recommend Romania intensifies the oversight over Romanian 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.**

Thank you Mr. President.