**Statement by the State of Palestine at the Universal Periodic Review of New Zealand, 21th of January 2019:**

Thank you, Mr. President,

The State of Palestine welcomes the delegation of New Zealand 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.

Since the previous UPR, significant efforts have been made by the government of New Zealand to increase protection and promote the rights of children; from adopting Child protection policies to a new government department dedicated to supporting children. In this regard, we recommend that the government of New Zealand continue its efforts, and to ensure that all children from all ethnic groups were provided with quality education.

We also commend the steps taken by New Zealand in the scoop of housing. We recommend that the government of New Zealand continue its efforts in increasing the availability of quality affordable housing and to ensure equitable housing for elderly, persons with disabilities and all ethnic groups.

We wish New Zealand a successful review.

I thank you.