**Statement by the State of Palestine at the Universal Periodic Review of Viet Nam, 22th of January 2019:**

Thank you, Mr. President,

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

We commend the government’s commitment in implementing recommendations from the previous UPR cycle and the steps taken to promote and protect human rights in the country.

We welcome the efforts made by Viet Nam to ensure the implementation of the SDGs including through issuing a National Action Plan and establishing a National Council for Sustainable Development, and we recommend that Viet Nam continues its efforts in this regard with the focus on ensuring sustainable livelihoods and improving the quality and accessibility of services especially for the vulnerable groups.

We also commend Viet Nam for the steps taken in improving education, and we recommend that Viet Nam continue its efforts in ensuring people’s access to education and culture, including in rural areas and remote regions.

We wish Viet Nam a successful review.

I thank you.