**Statement by the State of Palestine at the Universal Periodic Review of Slovakia, 28th of January 2019:**

Thank you, Mr. President,

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

We welcome the steps taken by the government of Slovakia in regards to issues related to discrimination including through approving the Action Plan for Preventing all Forms of Discrimination 2016-2019.In this regard, we recommend that the government of Slovakia take measures to prevent racist attacks, combat hate speech and crimes of extremism especially against minorities, and ensure that all incidents of were investigated and prosecuted and that the perpetrators were punished.

We also recommend that Slovakia ensures that its policies, legislation, regulations and enforcement measures effectively serves to prevent and address the heightened risk of business involvement in abuses in conflict situations, which includes situations of foreign occupation.

We wish Slovakia a successful review.

I thank you.