**Statement by the State of Palestine at the Universal Periodic Review of Cyprus, 29th of January 2019**

Thank you, Mr. President,

The State of Palestine welcomes the delegation of Cyprus and thank them for the comprehensive presentation of their national report.

We commend the efforts by the Government to promote and protect human rights in the country and we welcome the ratification of several human rights treaties and we encourage Cyprus to continue its efforts to include human rights treaties in their national legislations.

We acknowledge the efforts by the government to combat gender stereotypes from an early age and promoting diversity and combating racism in class rooms and in this regard, **we recommend that Cyprus continues its efforts to ensure equal access of all children to education while attributing great importance to accepting difference, promoting tolerance and respect in its educational policy.**

We would also like **to recommend that Cyprus 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 Cyprus a successful review.

I thank you,