**Statement by the State of Palestine at the Universal Periodic Review of Bhutan, 8th of May 2019:**

Thank you, Mr. President,

The State of Palestine welcomes the delegation of Bhutan 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 also commend the government of Bhutan for the steps taken in improving education including through establishing Central Schools to improve the quality and access to education particularly for children from rural communities. We recommend that Bhutan continue its efforts in this regard, and to increase efforts to ensure accessibility to education for children with disabilities.

In line with the efforts made by the government of Bhutan in implementing the 2030 Sustainable Development Goals, we recommend that Bhutan strengthen its efforts in providing access to adequate sanitation facilities in rural areas and access to adequate standard of living for economically disadvantaged families.

We wish Bhutan a successful review.

I thank you.