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

Thank you Madame vice president,

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

We commend the efforts by the government to strengthen and mainstream the protection and promotion of human rights at the national and international level.

We welcome the positive steps taken by the Government to combat racism through the adoption of different legislations in this regard **we recommend that Portugal continue its efforts to investigate and, as appropriate, prosecute and punish acts of hate speech; and that it strengthens its efforts to raise awareness of the importance of cultural diversity and inter-ethnic understanding in order to combat stereotyping and discrimination.**

We also took note of Portugal’s efforts to its awareness raising activities on business and human rights and **we recommend that Portugal 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 Portugal a successful review.

I thank you,