**Statement by the State of Palestine at the Universal Periodic Review of El Salvador, 4th November 2019**

Thank you Mr. President,

The State of Palestine welcomes the Delegation of El Salvador, and thanks them for the presentation of their national report.

We commend the efforts made by the Government to promote and protect human rights since the last cycle, particularly their cooperation in recent years with several international human rights mechanisms.

We welcome the steps taken by El Salvador to combat racism and discrimination and in this regard, **we recommend that the Government increase its efforts to bring its legal provisions on racial discrimination into line with the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination and to strengthen its efforts to eliminate discrimination against girls, particularly regarding their access to education.**

We also welcome the Government’s effort regarding trafficking in persons including by establishing a national council on trafficking in persons and carrying out campaigns and projects for the prevention of this offence **and we recommend that El Salvador continue its efforts in this regard and to develop a comprehensive plan of action to prevent and combat trafficking and sexual exploitation of women and girls.**

We wish El Salvador a successful review.

I thank you,