**Statement by the State of Palestine at the Universal Periodic Review of Fiji, 6th of November 2019:**

Thank you, Mr. President,

The State of Palestine welcomes the delegation of Fiji to the third cycle of the UPR and thanks them for the presentation of their national report and we commend the government’s commitment to promote and protect human rights.

We welcome the efforts made by the government of Fiji in empowering women and realizing equality and equity for women and men, including through launching a National Adaptation Plan that complements Goal5 of the SDGs.

We also commend Fiji for the steps taken in regard to education in particular to children with disabilities, by providing special schools with yearly grants and scholarships for children with special needs.

In this regard the State of Palestine wishes to make the following recommendations to the government of Fiji:

1. to continue its efforts to strengthen the understanding of equality of women and men and ensure equal rights and opportunities for women in formal employment, eliminate occupational segregation and achieve substantive equality in the labor market;
2. to continue its efforts in ensuring that persons with disabilities had equal access to education, health and social services, and to facilitate their full inclusion into society.

We wish Fiji a successful review.

I thank you.