**Statement by the State of Palestine at the Universal Periodic Review of Bulgaria, 6th of November 2020:**

Thank you, Madam President,

The State of Palestine welcomes the delegation of Bulgaria and we thank them for the presentation of their national report. And we commend the government’s commitment to promote and protect human rights.

We welcome the steps taken by the government of Bulgaria in regards to issues related to combatting racism and xenophobia including the increased hate speech and hate crime incidents, and we recommend in this regard that the government of Bulgaria take measures to prevent racist attacks, combat hate speech and crimes of extremism especially against minorities, and ensure that all incidents are investigated, prosecuted and that the perpetrators were punished.

We also recommend that Bulgaria 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 Bulgaria a successful review.

I thank you.