**Position of the State of Palestine on the General Comment on Scientific Progress and Economic, Social and Cultural Rights**

While it is the right of every human being to benefit from the scientific progress achieved by humanity in overall, it is also a right for everyone not to be harmed by such progress. More importantly, it is a right for everyone not to have their other human rights, as provided by ICESCR and other human rights instruments, violated as a result to scientific progress.

Such a right should also be taken in consideration from different perspectives. Scientific progress and its applications should be aligned with policies and measures taken to prevent the potential catastrophic results of climate change. Scientific progress and its applications in the arms industry, and the manufacturing of equipment and any other means used in armed conflict, should be carried out without prejudicing the rights of persons protected under the norms of International Humanitarian Law, and therefore, the practical use of such equipment should be in line with the norms relevant to the principles of distinction and proportionality in IHL. In this context, the application of scientific progress in these fields should also be aligned with the internationally recognized norms relevant to disarmament and the prohibition of the use of certain weaponry in armed conflict.