**4th Session of IGWG on TNCs and OBEs with respect to Human Rights**

**Article. 9**

**Permanent Observer Mission of The State of Palestine**

Thank you Chair for giving me the floor, and we thank the panellists for their interventions.

In regards to the draft text, in its current format, the Treaty focuses on various important issues, including corporate human rights due diligence, but it does not shed light on the importance of requiring strict due diligence by both the state and corporate actors in situations of conflict.

unfortunately, “special attention” under article 15 remains insufficient to address the increasing role of corporations in the commission of and involvement in grave breaches of international law, as well as their significant role in protracting and sustaining conflicts, particularly those relevant to the arms industry and natural resources.

In this regard, we see that adding a provision under article 9 on prevention requiring enhanced due diligence specific to conflict-affected areas to avoid adverse human rights impacts by corporate activities and/or their relationships, is rather essential.

As well as, where a situation is clearly in violation of international law in a conflict-affected area, the treaty must require States to create regulations to ensure that companies refrain from activities that contribute to such violations and / or terminate existing business activity.

I thank you.