**5th Session of IGWG on TNCs and OBEs with respect to Human Rights**

**General Statement**

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

Thank you, Chairperson Rapporteur,

At the outset we would like to congratulate you Ambassador on your election as chairperson-rapporteur of the working group. And we commend the efforts in drafting and presenting this important draft Treaty.

The State of Palestine welcomes the revised draft of the legally binding instrument issued on July 2019. And we appreciate the important improvements to the revised Draft Treaty, and the integration of several points from our proposals last session, these include improved language on conflict-affected areas. At the same time, the revised Draft has several gaps that must be addressed to ensure the full protection of the rights of people.

The continuity of the process and the publication of a draft of the legally binding instrument, is a step in the right direction towards realising a treaty to regulate the activities of business enterprises, particularly those of a transnational character.

We anticipate that the legally binding instrument continues to reflect more the content of Human Rights Council resolution 26/9, the UN Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights, and the rights guaranteed under international law, especially on prevention, due diligence and legal liability.

We reiterate our full support to the mandate of the intergovernmental working group and reassure our commitment to the process of elaborating a legally binding instrument in line with resolution 26/9. We look forward to the discussions of the revised draft text with the view of maintaining and strengthening it. We call on all states to constructively engage and we welcome the participation and inputs from civil society organizations.

I thank you.