Thank you Mr. Chair

**State of Palestine welcomes the organization of this intersessional meeting**

**“Leave no one behind”** was chosen as a slogan for the SDGs Agenda. However, the realization of this slogan in Palestine remains extremely difficult. As Sustainable development is closely connected to ending apartheid, illegal occupation and colonization.

Mr Chair:

Worldwide efforts to implement the SDGs Have been totally shattered. by the continuous illegal colonial occupation of Palestine including the ongoing Israeli genocidal acts in Gaza. causing **untold human suffering and disastrous long term humanitarian, economical & environmental consequences**, on the national, regional and international level.

On 23 of October UNCTAD has issued its latest report Where it Provided an Anatomy of the de-development of Gaza , prior to the current genocidal aggression, It described the blockade, restrictions and a vicious circle of destruction and insufficient reconstruction.

Since the 7th October, 104 days, the Occupying power has mercilessly slaughtered more than 24285 Palestinian in Gaza and 326 Palestinian in the West Bank, **with a child being murdered at a rate of one kid every 10 minutes**.

As UN human rights experts affirmed that the Palestinian People in Gaza now make up 80 per cent of all people facing famine or catastrophic hunger worldwide, marking an unparalleled humanitarian crisis amid Israel’s continued bombardment and siege, they also affirmed “**It is unprecedented** to make **an entire civilian population** go **hungry this completely and quickly.** Israel is **destroying Gaza’s food system** and using food as a weapon against the Palestinian people.”

As of 30 December, over 290 thousand housing units have been damaged.

Ending Poverty, Zero Hunger, Good Health, Quality Education, Clean Water and Sanitation, Decent Work and Economic Growth, and Infrastructure**, Peace, Justice**. **All SDGS goals** have been totally shattered and became a pipe dream for Gaza.

Mr Chair,

The World Bank, IMF and UNCTAD stated that the Israeli colonial power imposes a myriad of restrictions on the Palestinian economy that are impeding any prospects of sustainable economic growth. It prevents the Palestinian People from accessing much of their land and **their own natural resources**. It further **isolates** the Palestinian People from global markets, and **fragments the territory** into small and disconnected **"cantons".**

Foreign aid will not be efficient without tackling the **root cause of the de-development in Palestine** which is **the illegal occupation**. Ending the illegal occupation is the first step towards regional and international development, peace and security.

I thank you