**Statement by the State of Palestine in ID with SR Ms Elver**

Thank you Mr. President, and many thanks also to Ms. Elver for her report and presentation.

Mr. President,

As the Special Rapporteur states in her report, “exposure to pesticides can have severe impacts on the enjoyment of human rights, in particular the right to adequate food, as well as the right to health”. Nevertheless, Israeli planes illegally spray herbicides on agricultural lands belonging to Palestinian civilians in Gaza. These Israeli pesticides have a negative effect on Palestinian crops and cause tremendous losses for Palestinian farmers in the occupied and besieged territory.

Additionally, not only are Palestinians prevented by Israel from accessing significant portions of farmland in Gaza, but Israel has also declared parts of the Mediterranean Sea off the coast of Gaza as “buffer zones”, denying Palestinian fishermen access to important sources of livelihood. Even within these limits, fishermen continue to be the target of arrests and armed attacks from the Israeli occupation forces.

Mr. President,

In the West Bank, the systematic destruction of Palestinian agricultural land has been part of a deliberate strategy to starve peasants from their sources of livelihood. Recently, Israel, the occupying Power, demolished water supply infrastructure in two areas in the West Bank that provided water to Palestinian farming and shepherding communities, in grave violation of international law. Furthermore, extremist and terrorist settlers continue to use violence to push peasants out of their land, by killing cattle, burning crops, uprooting olive trees. Of grave concern is also the practice of illegal transport and dumping of hazardous and toxic waste produced inside Israel into the occupied State of Palestine.

Ms. Elver, in a situation where the occupying Power regularly contaminates crops and engages in violations of international law as part of State policy, what can be done to stop these harmful practices against Palestinian agriculture and the environment?

I thank you.