



Statement by Pakistan at World Health Assembly (75th Session),

***“Health conditions in the occupied Palestinian territory, including East Jerusalem,
and in the occupied Syrian Golan”***
on 25 May 2022

Mr. Chairman,

The enjoyment of the highest attainable standard of health is one of the fundamental rights of every human being, without discrimination. Yet, the continued Israeli occupation, its illegal settlement activities, discriminatory policies and practices undermine the enjoyment of this basic right of the people of Palestine.

Pakistan appreciates the WHO’s support for strengthening the health systems provision of technical assistance, capacity building and delivery of essential medicines and vaccines to the people of Palestine. The Director General’s report (as contained in the document A75/26) has expressed the gravity of the situation in the occupied Palestinian territory. Israel’s brutal use of force against the innocent Palestinian civilians is grave human rights violation including the right to health.

It is evident from the report, that the Israeli occupation has resulted in devastation of the health system in the occupied Palestinian territory, Gaza Strip and West Bank including East Jerusalem. All aspects of life, encompassing underlying determinants of health, have been profoundly affected by the chronic illegal occupation, long-term displacement and blockade.

Mr. Chairman,

The restrictions on movement of patients, health professionals and medicines remain a major challenge in the occupied territory. Lack of medicines and delay in delivery of vaccines has negatively affected health security. The appalling health

conditions have been exacerbated by the spate of Israeli aggression targeting homes, hospitals, ambulances with hundreds of casualties, putting strains on already precarious health facilities, which is a matter of grave concern. The report noted that there were 235 attacks against health care in the occupied Palestinian territory in 2021, which led to the injury of 106 health care workers, damaged 57 ambulances and 124 health facilities.

A matter of equal concern is the high level of exposure to violence that is responsible for increased mental health and psychological traumas. The report highlighted that experience of violence, as well as insecurity related to employment, housing, and income, adversely affect mental health and well-being for Palestinians. More worrisome is the significant increase in psychological distress among adolescents in the occupied Palestinian territory. As per Director General's report, more than 621 000 people are in need of mental health and psychosocial services in the occupied Palestinian territory.

Mr. Chairman,

Pakistan delegation lends its full support to the decision presented under agenda item. We strongly urge the international community to uphold international humanitarian and human rights laws including the right to health of the Palestinian people.

I thank you.
