



## **Permanent Mission of Pakistan to the UN Geneva**

### Statement

**Mr. Tahir Hussain Andrabi, Ambassador/DPR**

**Resumed Session of the 73<sup>rd</sup> World Health Assembly (virtual)  
(09-14 November, 2020)**

*Agenda item 17: "Health conditions in the occupied Palestinian territory, including East Jerusalem, and in the occupied Syrian Golan"*

**Mr. Chairman,**

Pakistan is deeply concerned over the deteriorating health situation in the occupied Palestine territories including East Jerusalem and in the occupied Syrian Golan. The continued Israeli occupation is both the cause and effect of the deteriorating health system in the occupied territories, negating access to provision of basic health services.

The Director General's comprehensive report in document A73/15 corroborates grave health problems in the occupied Palestinian territories and in Syrian Golan. The blockade of Gaza Strip and severe restrictions due to extensive network of checkpoints and barriers in the West Bank have resulted in actual denial of access to secondary and tertiary health care and inhibited development of an adequate health system. Lack of medicines and delay in delivery of vaccines has jeopardized vaccination coverage and thereby underscore health security objectives.

The Director General's report (A73/15) also notes that the occupation is responsible for increased mental health and psychosocial problems. As per WHO's estimate one in five people in conflict and post-conflict settings has depression, anxiety disorder, post-traumatic stress disorder, bipolar disorder, or schizophrenia. These are distressing statistics.

We appreciate the WHO's support and technical assistance, information and coordination services to Palestinian people in the occupied territories to modernize

the health system and to make it responsive to current challenges. More, however, needs to be done to stem a fast-developing health emergency. The UN Relief and Works Agency for Palestinian Refugees (UNRWA) should be enabled to ensure sustainable procurement of WHO prequalified vaccines and medicine and medical equipment to the occupied Palestinian territory in compliance with the international humanitarian law and the WHO norms and standards.

**Mr. Chairman,**

The Pakistan delegation lends its full support to the decision presented under agenda item 17 and strongly urges the international community to support the Palestinian people and take concerted efforts towards a just, comprehensive and lasting peace.

Thank You