

First report of Committee B

(Draft)

Committee B held its first and second meetings on 24 May 2023, chaired by Dr Carlos Alvarenga Cardoza (El Salvador).

In accordance with Rule 35 of the Rules of Procedure of the World Health Assembly, the Committee elected Mrs Katarzyna Drażek-Laskowska (Poland) and Dr Walaiporn Patcharanarumol (Thailand) Vice-Chairs, and Ms Lucy Cassels (New Zealand) Rapporteur.

It was decided to recommend to the Seventy-sixth World Health Assembly the adoption of the attached decision relating to the following agenda item:

18. Health conditions in the occupied Palestinian territory, including east Jerusalem, and in the occupied Syrian Golan

One decision

Agenda item 18

Health conditions in the occupied Palestinian territory, including east Jerusalem, and in the occupied Syrian Golan

The Seventy-sixth World Health Assembly, taking note of the report by the Director-General¹ requested in decision WHA75(10) (2022),

Decided to request the Director-General:

- (1) to report based on field monitoring and assessment conducted by WHO on progress in the implementation of the recommendations contained in the report on the health conditions in the occupied Palestinian territory, including east Jerusalem, and in the occupied Syrian Golan by the Director-General to the Seventy-seventh World Health Assembly, bearing in mind the legal obligation of the occupying power;
- (2) to support the Palestinian health sector, using a health system strengthening approach, including capacity-building programmes, improving basic infrastructure, human and technical resources and the provision of health facilities, ensuring the accessibility, affordability and quality of health care services required to address and deal with structural problems emanating from the prolonged occupation, and developing strategic plans for investment in specific treatment and diagnostic capacities locally;
- (3) to ensure sustainable procurement of WHO prequalified vaccines, medicine and medical equipment for the occupied Palestinian territory in compliance with international humanitarian law and WHO norms and standards;
- (4) to ensure non-discriminatory, affordable and equitable access to medical countermeasures such as vaccines, therapeutics and diagnostics for the protected occupied population in the occupied Palestinian territory, including east Jerusalem, and in the occupied Syrian Golan in compliance with international law and WHO norms and standards;
- (5) to ensure unhindered and safe passage for Palestinian ambulances as well as respect for and protection of medical personnel, in compliance with international humanitarian law, and to facilitate the access of Palestinian patients and medical staff to the Palestinian health institutions in occupied east Jerusalem and abroad;
- (6) to identify the impact of barriers to health access in the occupied Palestinian territory, including east Jerusalem, as a result of movement restrictions and territorial fragmentation, as well as progress made in the implementation of the recommendations contained in the WHO reports on the occupied Palestinian territory, including east Jerusalem;
- (7) to ensure respect for and protection of the wounded and injured population, health and humanitarian aid workers, the health care systems, and all medical and humanitarian personnel exclusively engaged in medical duties, their means of transport and equipment, as well as

¹ Document A76/15.

hospitals and other medical facilities in compliance with the Geneva Conventions and their Additional Protocols;

(8) to assess, in full cooperation with UNICEF and other relevant United Nations entities and the WHO Regional Office for the Eastern Mediterranean and the WHO country office in the occupied Palestinian territory, including east Jerusalem, the extent and nature of psychiatric morbidity and other forms of mental health problems resulting from protracted aerial and other forms of bombing among the population, particularly children and adolescents, of the occupied Palestinian territory, including east Jerusalem;

(9) to continue strengthening partnership with other United Nations entities and partners in the occupied Palestinian territory, including east Jerusalem, and in the occupied Syrian Golan, to enhance humanitarian health response capacities by delivering aid and protection in an inclusive and sustained manner before, during and after a pandemic crisis;

(10) to report, based on field assessments conducted by WHO, on health conditions of the Syrian populations in the occupied Syrian Golan, including prisoners and detainees, and ensure their adequate access to mental, physical and environment health services, and to report on ways and means to provide them with health-related technical assistance;

(11) to continue providing the necessary technical assistance in order to meet the health needs of the Palestinian people, including prisoners and detainees, in cooperation with the efforts of the International Committee of the Red Cross, as well as the health needs of handicapped and injured people;

(12) to support the development of the health system in the occupied Palestinian territory, including east Jerusalem, by focusing on the development of human resources, in order to localize health services, decreasing referrals, reducing cost, strengthening provision of mental health services and maintaining strong primary health care with integrated complete appropriate health services;

(13) to ensure the allocation of human and financial resources in order to achieve these objectives.

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