

21.4 Provisional agenda of the Seventy-fifth World Health Assembly and date and place of the 151st session of the Executive Board Documents EB150/40 and EB150/41 פלסטינים

Thank you chair,

Year after year, the World Health Assembly's agenda includes a stand-alone item, focused on the health situation of the Palestinians.

This item stands out as the only political item on the proposed agenda. Year after year, this item takes up valuable hours from a very tight schedule, yet benefits no one and does not reflect the reality on the ground.

Mr. Chair,

The Director-General has a report (document EB150/18) on WHO's work in health emergencies, which presents the gravest grade 3 emergencies that took place last year, and some that are still active. The Palestinian situation is not a grade 3 emergency, What is?

As set out in the report, the northern Tigray humanitarian response in Ethiopia -is. Afghanistan -is. The decade long emergency situation in Syria- is. The emergencies in South Sudan, Somalia and Yemen- are. All of these require the highest level of operations from the organization.

And I repeat -the Palestinian situation is not a grade 3 emergency. Yet, it is the only situation that has a separate item. It is therefore obvious that the only reason for this stand-alone item under item 19 of the proposed WHA agenda is to spread incitement against my country, Israel. That is the only rationale for having this agenda item, and not having agenda items on the many grade three emergencies I listed earlier.

We, Member States, must not allow the Palestinians and Syrians to politicize the World Health Organization. It is vital that we preserve this body as a specialized professional organization. This is not the general assembly, the Security Council nor the Human Rights Council. WHO is not the place to discuss the Israeli-Palestinian conflict.

We must keep our focus on global health.

This year, like in every year, Israel will continue to work with the Palestinians and will continue to welcome any program and assistance intended to improve the health conditions of the Palestinians.

Thank you.