Honorable Chair,
Excellencies,
Ladies and Gentlemen,

1. We would like to express our appreciation to the Director General and WHO Secretariat for the comprehensive report on “Health conditions in the occupied Palestinian territory, including East Jerusalem, and in the occupied Syrian Golan”. We would also like to register our appreciation for contributions given by WHO Member States for the implementation of the recommendations adopted in the 70th World Health Assembly.

2. We endorse strategic priorities carried out by WHO, which focuses not only to strengthen resilience of the Palestinian health system and enhance Ministry of Health’s leadership to progress universal health coverage, but also to build capacity in order to prevent, manage, and control diseases.

3. We are of the view that the enhancement of health access would be meaningless as long as the current permit system remains problematic. Therefore, as underlined by the Recommendation, it is imperative that the Israeli authorities establish procedures, which would enable all Palestinians access to health care. Health conditions in this territory would be less likely to be improved if the blockade remain enforced.

4. Indonesia notes with particular concerns that health conditions in this territory is becoming more alarming as a result of the prolonged conflicts. This condition has been worsened by substantial increase of violence, ‘incidents’ and psychological trauma endured by the Palestinians since the beginning of the “Great March of Return” last year. Unfortunately, the decrease source of funds available to the UN Relief and Works Agency for Palestinian Refugees has been hindering aid programs for this territory.

5. On that note, Indonesia always stands ready to give the support needed in the occupied Palestinian territory, including health services. Both the Government and people of Indonesia have been contributing in providing the health services for Palestinian people including the establishment of Hospital Indonesia in the Gaza Strips, operating since 2014 and Indonesian Cardiac Facility in Al Shifa Gaza Hospital in 2012. At the beginning of this year, the Indonesian and the Palestinian Government have signed a letter of intent pertaining to financial assistance for the procurement of medicines and medical equipment.

6. To conclude, Chair, Indonesia wishes, that WHO with the support of its member states will continue its contribution to overcome the health crisis in the occupied Palestinian territory so that the Palestinian people will recuperate its undeniable rights and access to healthcare.

Thank you, Chair.