

OIC statement at the 76th World Health Assembly
WHO at 75: Saving lives, driving health for all

Mr. President,

Excellencies,

At the outset, the OIC would like to commend WHO for all the work undertaken since its inception 75 years ago, for the common good of humanity.

Through its policies and programmes, WHO is relentlessly working to assist countries to improve access to treatment, care and prevention services and thus ensuring longer and healthier lives to their populations.

As enshrined in the WHO Constitution “Health is a state of complete physical, mental and social well-being and not merely the absence of disease or infirmity”. The highest attainable standard of health is a fundamental human right that has to be enjoyed equally by everyone, including by those living under occupation.

The COVID-19 pandemic, demonstrated the fragility of health systems and the uneven capacities around the world, notably in terms of access to health services, basic sanitation, as well as medical supplies and treatments. We need to accelerate global action to achieve equity between countries and render health systems more resilient. Sharing knowledge, technology and information in this respect is key.

Furthermore, investing in the health workforce is crucial, as the WHO estimates a shortage of 10 million health and care workers by 2030.

The OIC encourages its Member States to invest in the human capital through education, skills and decent jobs in the field of health.

The development of scientific and technical capacities in the production of medical supplies and achieving self-reliance is a key priority.

The OIC has set up a Strategic Health Programme of Action 2014- 2023 and is working on its follow-up.

In terms in immunization and polio-eradication, important efforts are being made.

Member States are encouraged to achieve universal health coverage.

In the 2022 edition of its Report “Towards the Achievement of Prioritised Sustainable Development Goals in OIC countries, the OIC Center for Training and Statistics (SESRIC) mentions that “Health is a fundamental human right, a precondition, and a driver for the other SDG’s due to its strong connections to the other aspects of sustainable development, namely water and sanitation, gender equality, climate change, and peace and stability.

Thank you.