Third report of Committee B

(Draft)

Committee B held its seventh and eighth meetings on 31 May 2024, chaired by Dr Feras Hawari (Jordan) and Dr Masami Sakoi (Japan).

It was decided to recommend to the Seventy-seventh World Health Assembly the adoption of the attached two resolutions and two decisions relating to the following agenda items:

**Pillar 2: One billion more people better protected from health emergencies**

14. Review of and update on matters considered by the Executive Board

14.2 Implementation of resolution WHA75.11 (2022)

One decision entitled:

- Health emergency in Ukraine and refugee-receiving and -hosting countries, stemming from the Russian Federation’s aggression

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

One decision

**Pillar 4: More effective and efficient WHO providing better support to countries**

27. Collaboration within the United Nations system and with other intergovernmental organizations

One resolution entitled:

- Aligning the participation of Palestine in the World Health Organization with its participation in the United Nations

**Pillar 2: One billion more people better protected from health emergencies**

14. Review of and update on matters considered by the Executive Board

14.1 WHO’s work in health emergencies

One resolution entitled:

- Health conditions in the occupied Palestinian territory, including east Jerusalem
Agenda item 14.2

Health emergency in Ukraine and refugee-receiving and -hosting countries, stemming from the Russian Federation’s aggression

The Seventy-seventh World Health Assembly,

Having considered the report by the Director-General requested in decision WHA76(8) (2023) on the implementation of resolution WHA75.11 (2022);¹

Recalling further the decision contained in resolution WHA75.11 (2022) that continued action by the Russian Federation to the detriment of the health situation in Ukraine, at regional and global levels, would necessitate that the Health Assembly should consider the application of relevant articles of WHO Constitution;

Recognizing the unprecedented challenges resulting from the Russian Federation’s aggression against Ukraine;

Recognizing further the ongoing work of WHO, its implementing partners, and other humanitarian organizations in addressing the health and humanitarian impacts of the Russian Federation’s aggression against Ukraine, and the wider region;

Noting the adoption of WHO’s country cooperation strategy, Ukraine 2024–2030, which outlines WHO’s commitment to support Ukraine in its efforts to reform the health system, emphasizing the need for investment in health care infrastructure, workforce development, and the implementation of reforms,

Decided:

1. to condemn in the strongest terms the Russian Federation’s continued aggression against Ukraine, including attacks on health care facilities documented via the WHO’s Surveillance System for Attacks on Health Care (SSA), as well as widespread attacks affecting civilians and critical civilian infrastructure that have led to heavy casualties, and hampered access to health care;

2. to express serious concerns over the continued health emergency in Ukraine and refugee-receiving and -hosting countries, including the negative impact on the mental health and psychosocial well-being of the population of Ukraine, triggered by the Russian Federation’s aggression against Ukraine, as well as its wider-than-regional health and humanitarian impacts including, inter alia: significant numbers of refugees fleeing Ukraine; the risks of radiological, biological and chemical events and hazards; and the exacerbation of an already significant global food security crisis;

3. to draw attention to the fact that the Russian Federation’s aggression against Ukraine continues to constitute exceptional circumstances, causing a serious impediment to the health of the population of Ukraine, as well as having regional and wider-than-regional health impacts;

4. to also draw attention to the severe and multifaceted impact of the Russian Federation’s aggression against Ukraine on persons in vulnerable or marginalized situations, especially women,

¹ Document A77/13.
children, young people, internally displaced persons, persons with disabilities, older persons, and
survivors of all forms of violence, including gender-based violence, former combatants, prisoners of
war and civilian detainees;

5. to call for respect for and protection of the sick and wounded consistent with the 1949 Geneva
Conventions and with broader international humanitarian law, including immediate and unconditional
repatriation of all seriously wounded and seriously sick prisoners of war as well as the release and
repatriation of wounded and sick civilian detainees;

6. to urge the Russian Federation to immediately cease any attacks against critical infrastructure
across Ukraine, including hospitals and other health care facilities, which have resulted in reduced access
to essential services such as the provision of health care, water, sanitation and energy, leading to
devastating consequences for the civilian population, and to fully respect and protect all medical
personnel and humanitarian personnel engaged in medical duties, their means of transport and
equipment, the sick and wounded, civilians, health and humanitarian aid workers, and health care
systems;

7. to urge the relevant Member States to adhere to international humanitarian law, and international
human rights law, as applicable, and WHO norms and standards and also allow and facilitate safe, rapid
and unhindered access to populations in need of assistance by staff deployed by WHO on the ground,
and by all other medical and humanitarian personnel;

8. to request the Director-General:

(a) to continue to implement resolution WHA75.11 (2022), entitled “Health emergency in
Ukraine and refugee-receiving and -hosting countries, stemming from the Russian Federation’s
aggression”;

(b) to report to the Seventy-eighth World Health Assembly in 2025, through the 156th session
of the Executive Board, on the implementation of resolution WHA75.11 (2022), including an
assessment of the direct and indirect impact of the Russian Federation’s aggression against
Ukraine on the health of the population of Ukraine, as well as related regional and
wider-than-regional health impacts including on its adverse effect on the attainment of the
objective and functions of WHO.
Agenda item 20

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

The Seventy-seventh World Health Assembly, taking note of the report by the Director-General requested in World Health Assembly decision 76(12) 2023, decided to request the Director-General:

1. to report based on field monitoring and assessment conducted by the 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-eighth World Health Assembly, bearing in mind the legal obligation of the occupying power;

2. to report, based on field monitoring and assessment conducted by the WHO emergency teams, on the public health implications of the catastrophic humanitarian crisis in the occupied Palestinian territory, including East Jerusalem, including with respect to acts of violence against the wounded and sick, medical personnel and humanitarian personnel exclusively engaged in medical duties, their means of transport and equipment, and submit recommendations in this regard to the 156th session of the Executive Board and to the fifth meeting of the Standing Committee on Health Emergency Prevention, Preparedness and Response, and to the Seventy-eighth World Health Assembly bearing in mind the legal obligations of the occupying power;

3. to report on the malnutrition results from disordered nutrient assimilation characterized by recurrent infections and chronic inflammation, implying an underlying immune defect. Recalling that in the occupied Gaza Strip enclave results from the use of starvation of civilians and its direct consequences, and urging the occupying power to protect civilian infrastructure which is critical to the delivery of humanitarian aid and to ensure the proper functioning of food systems and markets during the ongoing occupying power military operations;

4. to report on the link between food insecurity and the threat of famine, and calls on the occupying power to comply with its obligations under international humanitarian law regarding respecting and protecting civilians and taking constant care to spare civilian objects, including objects necessary for food production and distribution such as farms, markets, water systems, mills, food processing and storage sites, and hubs and means for food transportation, and refraining from attacking, destroying, removing or rendering useless objects that are indispensable to the survival of the civilian population, such as foodstuffs, crops, livestock, agricultural assets, drinking water installations and supplies, and irrigation works, and respecting and protecting humanitarian personnel and consignments used for humanitarian relief operations;

5. to report on the interconnectedness between health and other sectors, such as water and sanitation and nutrition, the intense overcrowding of the forcibly internally displaced civilians in shelters coupled with disrupted health and the need for a comprehensive approach to humanitarian assistance, and stressing that ongoing challenges in the occupied Gaza Strip enclave, including restrictions on the movement of goods can impact food availability contributing to malnutrition, while the limited availability of clean water, increases the risk of outbreaks and epidemics, and stressing that access to food, clean water and sanitation facilities is crucial for maintaining public health;
6. to support the Palestinian health sector, using a health system strengthening approach, including through capacity-building programmes by improving basic infrastructures, human and technical resources and the provision of health facilities, and of ensuring the accessibility, affordability and quality of health care services required to address and deal with structural problems emanating from the prolonged occupation, the wanton destruction of the Palestinian health system and forced displacement of civilians and the development of strategic plans for investments in specific treatment and diagnostic capacities locally;

7. to report on the wanton destruction of health facilities including hospitals and ambulances, and at the catastrophic humanitarian conditions that have been inflicted to the public health system in the occupied Palestinian territory, including East Jerusalem;

8. CALLS UPON the occupying power to fulfill its obligations under international law, including international humanitarian law to ensure, to the fullest extent of the means available to it, the supply and replenishment of medicine and medical equipment to the civilian population and Calls for safe and continuous passage of fuel and health supplies, and additional humanitarian assistance;

9. to assess, in full cooperation with UNRWA and UNICEF and relevant UN agencies in the occupied Palestinian territory, including East Jerusalem, the extent and nature of psychiatric morbidity, and other forms of mental health and psychosocial support needs and challenges, resulting from protracted aerial and other forms of bombing among the population, particularly children and adolescents, of the occupied Palestinian territory, including East Jerusalem;

10. to continue strengthening partnerships with other UN agencies such as the UNRWA and partners in the occupied Palestinian territory, including East Jerusalem, to enhance humanitarian health response capacities by delivering emergency aid and protection in an inclusive and sustained manner before, during and after the occupying power air, sea and land military operations and the complex humanitarian emergencies;

11. to ensure timely access to specialized trauma care as it is a vital element in patient outcome after severe and critical injury requiring the skills of trauma teams to avoid preventable imputation, permanent disability and mortality;

12. to continue strengthening partnerships with other UN agencies such as the UNRWA, UNICEF and partners in the occupied Palestinian territory, including East Jerusalem, to enhance health response capacities, by conducting an extensive and comprehensive mapping and screening of the capacity of the health system to respond to health emergencies adequately and properly, including preparedness and response;

13. to ensure sustainable access to health-related products particularly for women and girls at a scale required to meet their full health, dignity, privacy and hygiene needs in the occupied Palestinian territory, including East Jerusalem, Recalling the very limited access to menstrual hygiene products in the occupied Gaza Strip enclave. This is even more difficult for women and girls with disabilities who are already facing major access challenges;

14. to ensure sustainable procurement of WHO prequalified vaccines and medicine and medical equipment and to ensure unhindered access to health-related products to the occupied Palestinian territory including East Jerusalem in compliance with the international humanitarian law and the WHO norms and standards;
15. to ensure non-discriminatory, affordable and equitable access to medical countermeasures such as vaccines, therapeutics and diagnostics to the protected occupied population in the occupied Palestinian territory including East Jerusalem and in the occupied Syrian Golan in compliance with the International Law and WHO norms and standards;

16. to ensure a sustained, orderly, unimpeded, safe and unobstructed unhindered passage for medical personnel and humanitarian personnel exclusively engaged in medical duties, their equipment, transport and supplies, including surgical items, to all Palestinian patients in need, consistent with international humanitarian law, calls for the passage for ambulances and medical evacuations of critically injured and sick patients and medical staff to the Palestinian health institutions in occupied East Jerusalem and abroad;

17. to identify the impact of barriers to health access in the occupied Palestinian territory including East Jerusalem, as a result of the long-standing occupation and the ongoing war and movement restrictions of goods and persons and territorial fragmentation, as well as progress made in the implementation of the recommendations contained in the World Health Organization reports in the occupied Palestinian territory including East Jerusalem;

18. to ensure the respect and protection of wounded population and injuries, health and humanitarian aid workers, the health care systems, all medical and humanitarian personnel exclusively engaged in medical duties, their means of transport and equipment, as well as hospitals and other medical facilities in compliance with the Geneva Conventions and their Additional Protocols;

19. to strengthen and to continue providing the necessary technical and material health assistance in order to meet the health needs of the Palestinian people, including prisoners, 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, and the human treatment of all persons deprived of their liberty or any other form of deprivation of liberty like enforced disappearance and their access to medical treatment in compliance with international humanitarian law, including the Geneva Conventions and their Additional Protocols;

20. to continue strengthening partnership with other UN agencies 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 pandemic crisis;

21. to report, based on field assessments conducted by the 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, and to report on ways and means to provide them with health-related technical assistance;

22. to support the rehabilitation of the health sector and 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 mental health services provision and maintaining strong primary health care with integrated complete appropriate health services;

23. to hold an urgent conference for donors, prior to the Seventy-eighth World Health Assembly, to finance immediate health needs as well as the rehabilitation and rebuilding of the
health system in the occupied Palestinian territory, including East Jerusalem, and calls on Member States, donors and international humanitarian and development actors to provide humanitarian assistance to the Palestinian people;

24. CALLS upon the international community to secure appropriate funding to support the immediate and future needs of the WHO health programmes in the occupied Palestinian territory, including East Jerusalem, and for rebuilding the Palestinian health system, in full cooperation with the WHO and relevant UN agencies such as the UNRWA and partners;

25. to ensure the allocation of human and financial resources in order to urgently achieve these objectives;

26. Calls for the immediate and unconditional release of all hostages held in Gaza, including children, women and older persons, and condemns the use, by armed groups, of health facilities, including hospitals and ambulances, that endangers the civilian population;

27. Condemns the indiscriminate attacks on medical and humanitarian facilities used exclusively for humanitarian purposes, as well as medical personnel, by the occupying power, in violation of international law;

28. Recalls the provisional measures ordered by the International Court of Justice in which it ordered Israel to take all necessary and effective measures to ensure, without delay, in full co-operation with the United Nations, the unhindered provision at scale by all concerned of urgently needed basic services and humanitarian assistance, including food, water, electricity, fuel, shelter, clothing, hygiene and sanitation requirements, as well as medical supplies and medical care to Palestinians throughout Gaza, including by increasing the capacity and number of land crossing points and maintaining them open for as long as necessary;

29. Recalls the provisional measures ordered by the International Court of Justice where the court recalled that the military operation conducted by Israel after 7 October 2023 has resulted, inter alia, in tens of thousands of deaths and injuries and the destruction of homes, schools, medical facilities and other vital infrastructure, as well as displacement on a massive scale.
Agenda item 27

Aligning the participation of Palestine in the World Health Organization with its participation in the United Nations

The Seventy-seventh World Health Assembly,


DECIDES, without setting a precedent, to confer upon Palestine in the World Health Assembly and other meetings of the World Health Organization, in its capacity as an observer State, the following rights and privileges, without prejudice to its existing rights and privileges:

(a) the right to be seated among Member States in alphabetical order;

(b) the right of inscription on the list of speakers under agenda items other than Palestinian and Middle East issues in the order in which it signifies its desire to speak;

(c) the right to make statements on behalf of a group, including among representatives of major groups;

(d) the right to submit proposals and amendments and introduce them, including orally, including on behalf of a group;

(e) the right to co-sponsor proposals and amendments, including on behalf of a group;

(f) the right to make explanations of vote on behalf of the States Members of a group;

(g) the right of reply regarding positions of a group;

(h) the right to raise procedural motions, including points of order and requests to put proposals to the vote, including the right to challenge the decision of the presiding officer, including on behalf of a group;

(i) the right to propose items to be included in the provisional agenda of the regular or special sessions and the right to request the inclusion of supplementary or additional items in the agenda of regular or special sessions;

(j) the right of members of the delegation of Palestine to be elected as officers in the plenary and the main committees of the Health Assembly;

(k) the right to full and effective participation in meetings convened under the auspices of the Health Assembly;

(l) Palestine, in its capacity as an observer State, does not have the right to vote in the Health Assembly or to put forward its candidature to WHO’s organs.
Agenda item 14.1

Health conditions in the occupied Palestinian territory, including east Jerusalem

The Seventy-seventh World Health Assembly,

Noting the role of WHO within its mandate as the directing and coordinating authority on international health matters;

Expressing grave concern at the catastrophic humanitarian situation in the Gaza Strip, and its vast consequences for the civilian population, and in the light of the gravity of the current escalating situation, and the magnitude of the intense damage on the public health sector, that has, to this date, killed and injured thousands of civilians, the majority of them children, women and elderly, including humanitarian and health workers, in addition to thousands of victims who remain under the rubble;

Emphasizing that all civilians, including health and humanitarian aid workers, must be protected, in accordance with international humanitarian law, and deploring in this regard the heavy civilian casualties and widespread destruction;

Expressing further concern at the large-scale destruction of health facilities including hospitals and ambulances, and at the catastrophic humanitarian conditions that have been inflicted on the public health system in the Gaza Strip;

Recognizing that attacks on medical and health personnel result in long-lasting impacts, including the loss of life and human suffering, weaken the ability of health systems to deliver essential life-saving services and produce setbacks for health development;

Expressing also deep concern at the killing of more than one hundred UN staff including WHO staff;

Commending WHO, its Director-General and its staff and health cluster partners in the field for remaining and delivering, and for their tireless efforts to address the situation on the ground in the Gaza Strip, early on, despite severe dangers to their lives, and expressing appreciation to all humanitarian agencies and their implementing partners that are delivering life-saving aid to alleviate the impact of the conflict on civilians;

Bearing in mind the appeal for a humanitarian ceasefire by invoking Article 99 of the United Nations Charter;¹

Recalling the Geneva Conventions of 1949 and their Additional Protocols, as applicable, as well as relevant customary international law concerned with the protection of the wounded and sick, medical personnel and humanitarian personnel exclusively engaged in medical duties, their means of transport

and equipment, as well as hospitals and other medical facilities, and the obligation of all parties to armed conflict to respect and ensure respect for international humanitarian law in all circumstances;¹

Recalling further the specific obligations under international humanitarian law to respect and protect, in situations of armed conflict, medical personnel and humanitarian personnel exclusively engaged in medical duties, their means of transport and equipment, and hospitals and other medical facilities, which must not be attacked, and to ensure that the wounded and sick receive, to the fullest extent practicable and with the least possible delay, the medical care and attention required;²

Expressing concern at the inadequate humanitarian access to, and its grave impact on, the Palestinian civilian population, and underlining the urgent need for necessary humanitarian measures, including humanitarian pauses, to ensure full, rapid, safe, and unhindered humanitarian access throughout the Gaza Strip;

Expressing concern also at the dire situation of hospitals and other medical facilities and ambulances, and the obstruction of the provision of the fuel necessary for their operation, endangering the lives of the sick and wounded, and preventing the conduct of medical operations and procedures, and the operation of medical equipment including incubators for premature newborn babies and surgical and resuscitation equipment for persons suffering from severe medical conditions;

Expressing further concern at the fact that the civilian population has been exposed to conflict and insecurity, leading to significant mental health and psychosocial needs, underlining the importance of urgently providing mental health and psychosocial support, as well as trauma-related services, to the affected persons particularly children;

Underlining the disproportionate effect on children, women, elderly, disabled persons and the chronically ill, and recognizing the need to address their specific health needs, including the special health needs of persons with disabilities, bearing in mind the challenges they face in accessing medical services, which are compounded in the current situation, as a result of the destruction of civilian infrastructure and residential buildings, and the resulting additional restrictions to human mobility;

Expressing concern at the public health management implications of the existence of thousands of corpses of victims in the Gaza Strip buried under the rubble, which are exacerbated by the lack of access to water, electricity, and equipment needed to bury the bodies of the dead;

Expressing further concern that intense overcrowding in shelters coupled with disrupted health, water and sanitation systems and lack of fuel pose increasing risks of the spread of infectious diseases, including waterborne, airborne, vector and vaccine-preventable diseases;

Recognizing the interconnectedness between health and other sectors, such as water and sanitation and nutrition, and the need for a comprehensive approach to humanitarian assistance, and stressing that ongoing challenges in the Gaza Strip, including restrictions on the movement of goods can impact food availability contributing to malnutrition, while the limited availability of clean water, increases the risk

¹ United Nations Security Council resolution 2286 (2016) on protection of the wounded and sick, medical personnel and humanitarian personnel in armed conflict; resolution WHA65.20 (2012) on WHO’s response, and role as the health cluster lead, in meeting the growing demands of health in humanitarian emergencies.

of outbreaks and epidemics, and stressing that access to clean water and sanitation facilities is crucial for maintaining public health,

1. CALLS FOR the immediate, sustained and unimpeded passage of humanitarian relief, including the access of medical personnel, the entry of humanitarian equipment, transport and supplies in the occupied Palestinian territory, in particular the Gaza Strip, and the granting of exit permits for patients in need of medical treatment outside the Gaza Strip, and stresses the need for the unhindered and safe passage of ambulances at checkpoints, especially in times of conflict [based on Human Rights Council resolution 52/3 (2023) on the human rights situation in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, and the obligation to ensure accountability and justice];

2. CALLS UPON all parties to fulfil their obligations under international law, including international humanitarian law and international human rights law to ensure, to the fullest extent of the means available to it, the supply and replenishment of medicine and medical equipment to the civilian population, and reaffirms that all parties to armed conflict must comply fully with the obligations applicable to them under international humanitarian law related to the protection of civilians in armed conflict and medical personnel;

3. DEMANDS that all parties fully comply with their obligations, in particular their obligations under the Geneva Conventions of 1949 and the obligations applicable to them under the Additional Protocols, to ensure the respect and protection of all medical personnel and humanitarian personnel exclusively engaged in medical duties, their means of transport and equipment, as well as hospitals and other medical facilities [based on paragraph 2 of United Nations Security Council resolution 2286];

4. FURTHER DEMANDS a sustained, orderly, unimpeded, safe and unobstructed passage for medical personnel and humanitarian personnel exclusively engaged in medical duties, their equipment, transport and supplies, including surgical items, to all people in need, consistent with international humanitarian law, calls for the passage for ambulances and medical evacuations of critically injured and sick patients as well as respect and protection of the wounded, sick and injured, and ensuring the safety, security and safe movement of all Palestinian patients to receive medical needs and treatments, and calls for the human treatment of all persons deprived of their liberty and their access to medical treatment in compliance with international humanitarian law, including the Geneva Conventions and their Additional Protocols;

5. REQUESTS the Director-General:

(a) to report, based on field monitoring and assessment conducted by the WHO emergency teams, on the public health implications of the catastrophic humanitarian crisis in the occupied Palestinian territory, including east Jerusalem, including with respect to acts of violence against the wounded and sick, medical personnel and humanitarian personnel exclusively engaged in medical duties, their means of transport and equipment, as well as hospitals and other medical facilities, and submit recommendations in this regard to the fifth meeting of the Standing Committee on Health Emergency Prevention, Preparedness and Response and to the 156th session of the Executive Board and, to the Seventy-eighth World Health Assembly;

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(b) to coordinate with donors, prior to the Seventy-eighth World Health Assembly, to secure the funding for the immediate health needs as well as the rehabilitation and rebuilding of the health system in the occupied Palestinian territory, including east Jerusalem, and calls on Member States, donors and international humanitarian and development actors to provide humanitarian assistance to the Palestinian people, and to ensure the allocation of human and financial resources in order to urgently achieve these objectives;

(c) to assess, in full cooperation with relevant UN agencies, the extent and nature of psychiatric morbidity, and other forms of mental health and psychosocial support needs and challenges of all affected persons;

(d) to strengthen and to continue providing the necessary technical and material health assistance in order to meet the health needs of the Palestinian people, especially the most vulnerable;

(e) to continue strengthening partnerships with other UN agencies such as UNRWA and relevant partners in the occupied Palestinian territory, including east Jerusalem, to enhance humanitarian health response capacities by delivering emergency aid and protection in an inclusive and sustained manner before, during and after the military operations and the humanitarian crisis;

6. CALLS UPON the international community to secure appropriate funding to support the immediate and future needs of the WHO health programmes in the occupied Palestinian territory, including east Jerusalem, and for rebuilding the Palestinian health system, in full cooperation with WHO and relevant UN agencies such as UNRWA and partners.