



## **Statement of Ireland**

### **156<sup>th</sup> Session of the WHO Executive Board**

#### **Item 17. – Health conditions in the occupied Palestinian territory, including east Jerusalem**

**6<sup>th</sup> February 2025**

Chair,  
Director General,  
Colleagues,

Ireland aligns with the statement delivered by Poland on behalf of the European Union and its Member States.

We would like to thank the Director General for the report on “Health conditions in the occupied Palestinian territory, including east Jerusalem”.

Ireland welcomes the ceasefire agreement in Gaza, which allows for the phased release of the hostages, an end to hostilities and an easing of the humanitarian suffering in Gaza. It is essential that the deal is fully implemented to enable release of all hostages, and to ensure a permanent end to hostilities.

Ireland commends the important role being played by WHO staff in Gaza, who have been at the forefront of the international humanitarian response, and have been tireless in their efforts to deliver life-saving assistance despite severe dangers to their lives.

The destruction of hospitals and health centres, has led to the complete collapse of the health system in Gaza. This has had a devastating impact on civilians, particularly women and children.

Ireland supports the WHO efforts to scale up its operations, to mobilise critical supplies and resources to address immediate needs, to organise medical evacuations and to support early recovery efforts.

All actors must comply with international humanitarian law to ensure the protection of all civilians. Healthcare facilities and units are protected under international humanitarian law, and this protection extends to the wounded and sick as well as to medical staff and means of transport.

Ireland will continue to support efforts for a peaceful resolution to the conflict, based on a two-State solution, and progress towards comprehensive regional peace.

Thank you.