



**MINISTRY OF HEALTH
REPUBLIC OF MALDIVES**

**156th Session of the Executive Board, World Health Organization
3 – 11 February 2025**

Agenda 17: Health conditions in the occupied Palestinian territory, including east Jerusalem

Thank you Chair,

Maldives appreciates the efforts of the secretariat for the comprehensive report on the severe health crisis in the occupied Palestinian territory, including East Jerusalem.

We are deeply concerned by the catastrophic humanitarian situation, particularly in Gaza, where civilians continue to bear the devastating consequences of ongoing conflict. The report paints a harrowing picture of a healthcare system under siege, with attacks on medical facilities, healthcare workers, and patients becoming tragically common place. The significant loss of life, widespread displacement, and destruction of critical health infrastructure necessitate an urgent and coordinated response from the international community.

Maldives expresses its profound concern over the alarming impact on public health, with over thousands of deaths and tens of thousands more injured, the majority of whom are women, children, and vulnerable populations. The collapse of healthcare services, shortages of essential medical supplies, and the failure of sanitation systems have aggravated the already dire situation. The increasing prevalence of malnutrition, the spread of preventable diseases, and the mental health toll on the population are further indicators of the crisis at hand.

Maldives strongly condemns the attacks on healthcare facilities and personnel by Israel, which constitute clear violations of international humanitarian law. It is imperative that all parties involved in the conflict uphold their obligations to protect health workers and ensure the unimpeded delivery of humanitarian aid.



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We call for the following actions:

1. Immediate cessation of any attacks on healthcare infrastructure and personnel, in adherence to international law.
2. Increased, upscaled, unhindered and secure access for humanitarian aid, ensuring that essential supplies and medical assistance reach those in need.
3. Enhanced support for mental health services and disease prevention, particularly in addressing the growing needs related to malnutrition and infectious diseases.
4. Continued financial and technical assistance in rebuilding and strengthening the capacity of healthcare systems.

Maldives supports efforts to maintain ceasefire and call for its full implementation.

Maldives calls on the WHO and its Member States to take urgent action to address the health crisis in the occupied Palestinian territory and ensure the protection of healthcare workers. It is crucial that the international community not only support the ceasefire but also take immediate and meaningful action to address the humanitarian needs on the ground. We call for urgent and upscaled support to Palestine to ensure a sustainable recovery from prolonged Israeli attacks.

We must work together to uphold the fundamental right to health for all people, regardless of their nationality or political affiliation.

Maldives supports the resolution under this agenda item and stands in solidarity with the Palestinian people and urge the international community to act decisively to alleviate their suffering and protect their right to health.

Thank you.