

Statement by Islamic Republic of Iran on behalf of the Eastern
Mediterranean Region
“Health conditions in the occupied Palestinian territory, including east
Jerusalem, and in the occupied Syrian Golan”
Agenda Item: 17

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(Please check against delivery)

Mr. Chairman,

I have the honor to deliver this statement on behalf of the Eastern Mediterranean Group. Let me start by expressing gratitude to the Director General and the Secretariat for preparing the report (A73/15) and their continuing efforts to improve health conditions in the occupied Palestinian territory and in the occupied Syrian Golan Heights.

Regretfully, the recent WHO report, cited hereunder, confirms disturbing information and clearly indicates, that the situation in the Palestinians Occupied Territories is alarming

and chronic occupation has profound implications for the health-care provision.

Moreover, restrictions on the movement of people, including the imposed tight blockade on the Gaza Strip still remains, which deteriorating Palestinian health conditions.

More than 12 years of inhuman blockade have had a profound effect on the health sector, as well as on underlying determinants of health, in the Gaza Strip which worsened the already dire situation;

and the health system continues to operate under severe pressure due to shortages in basic supplies, and the inherent limitations, which requires strengthening technical assistance to public health sector.

According to the report, in 2019, three Palestinian detainees died as the result of medical negligence, making the total number 222 since 1960s. Mental health represent one of the most significant public health challenges. Moreover, a study published in 2017 indicates that the occupied Palestinian territory has the largest burden of mental disorders in the Eastern Mediterranean Region.

Last year, WHO estimated that one in five people in conflict and post-conflict settings has psychological problem in the occupied Palestinian territory, this means

that more than 250 000 individuals require essential mental health and psychosocial interventions.

Mr. Chairman,

Likewise, the policy of gross discrimination pursued by the Israeli Regime leads to a deterioration in the living and health conditions and blatant violation of right to health of the Syrian populations in occupied Syrian Golan.

As its long-standing policy, Israeli regime prevents WHO from conducting a field assessment of the situation including health needs and problems in the occupied Syrian Golan, which might be one of the reasons that the recent report (A73/15) falls short of reflecting the actual health situation on the ground.

Mr. Chairman,

The international community should take all necessary measures to stop the inhumane actions of the Israeli regime, and to help alleviate the sufferings of the people of the Gaza Strip and the West Bank including east Jerusalem and in the occupied Syrian Golan.