AGENDA ITEM 26.5

HEALTH CONDITIONS IN THE OCCUPIED PALESTINIAN TERRITORY, INCLUDING EAST JERUSALEM AND IN THE OCCUPIED SYRIAN GOLAN

74th WORLD HEALTH ASSEMBLY

24 MAY – 1 JUN 2021

Thank you, Chair.

Indonesia would like to thank the Secretariat for having prepared the document for this Agenda Item, as well as the WHO and other related UN bodies in their effort to monitor and improve health conditions in the occupied Palestinian territory and the occupied Syrian Golan, particularly in facing the COVID-19 pandemic.

Indonesia strongly supports the inclusion of this Agenda Item in the World Health Assembly considering the worrying health conditions in the Occupied Palestinian Territory due to prolonged conflict, including the recent hostilities and violence, as well as the COVID-19 pandemic.

We would also like to be included as a co-sponsor for the resolution under this agenda item.

We cannot deny that underlying determinants of health in Palestine have been profoundly affected by the chronic occupation and situations of long-term displacement and blockade for Palestinians in the West Bank, including east Jerusalem, and the Gaza Strip.

In this regard, we appreciate the WHO's active support to supply Palestine with COVID-19 vaccines through the COVAX Facility. We hope that the WHO will continue to provide aid and technical support to the Palestinian people.

We take note of the Director General's recommendation to third states on the matter, particularly the recommendation to support efforts to strengthen the protection of Palestinians from violations, including Palestinian health staff and services, and maintain accountability under international law.

Indonesia stands ready to work closely with the WHO and other multilateral institutions to provide health support needed by the Palestinian people, including in the fair and equitable distribution of COVID-19 vaccines. In this regard, we welcome the current ceasefire in Palestine which should enable the resumption of health services, including for the mitigation of COVID-19.

We also welcome the recommendation of the Director General which emphasizes the need to respect, protect and fulfil the underlying determinants of health for Palestinians by ending movement restrictions, closures and practices of demolitions and displacement, and paving the way for the expansion of essential services and infrastructure.

Finally, Indonesia hopes that the WHO will continue to monitor and report the health conditions in Palestine as part of its commitment to help the realisation of Universal Health Coverage for all nations.

Thank you, Chair.

(362 words)