

**Honorable Minister of Health of Botswana DR. DIKOLOTI,
President of the 77th World Health Assembly,**

**Excellency Dr. Tedros Ghebreyesus, Director-General of the
World Health Organization**

**Honorable Ministers, Heads of Delegations, Dear
colleagues and friends**

“All for Health, Health for All” is the theme of this World Health Assembly. But in reality, health is neither available nor accessible for all Palestinians living under occupation.

As your distinguished Assembly is held today, the Palestinian people are in urgent need for protection, your crucial interventions and decisive recommendations to support our resilience and ensure our right to health and to live with dignity, peace and security.

Palestinians are deprived of healthcare. Currently, more than 20% of the occupied West Bank patients are denied access to oncology and specialized healthcare services in East Jerusalem hospitals by the occupying power. Gaza Strip patients have become almost entirely deprived of healthcare services due to the wanton destruction during the ongoing aggression. About 80% of Gaza hospitals and primary healthcare centers are out of service. Thousands of chronically ill Palestinian patients are facing death due to lack of medications and treatments.

Palestine is facing unprecedented Israeli aggressions and violations in Gaza Strip and West Bank, causing loss of thousands of lives, and tens of thousands of injuries and disabilities; the majority of those identified are women and children. Seventy five percent of the population of the Gaza Strip has been forcibly displaced internally. There have been continual hundreds of attacks on healthcare facilities, hospitals, and health personnel, about 500 health workers were martyred and murdered, about 800 injured, and 310 arrested.

During the last three days, the Israeli army continued to commit massacres against innocent Palestinian civilians in Gaza Strip, bombing sheltering tents housing displaced families in a designated safe zone in Rafah, children and women are burned alive. Certainly, there are no safe areas under Israeli occupation.

The health situation in the occupied West Bank is also deteriorating due to increasing Israeli military and settlers' violations targeting all Palestinian cities and villages and refugee camps, movement restrictions and closure actions, violations targeting health workers and healthcare facilities and ambulances.

The health situation in Palestine is catastrophic, we are facing disastrous public health crisis due to limited access to water, hygiene and food, increasing rates of communicable diseases, disrupted vaccination and

different public health programs, shortages in hospital and ICU beds and neonatal incubators.

To add to the devastation and health challenges described, the Palestinian government has been facing a fiscal crisis in health, largely due to the significant deductions of the Palestinian clearance funds controlled by the occupying power Israel, which has negatively impacted the Palestinian government's ability to meet its financial obligations, including health workforce salaries and operational expenses.

Ladies and Gentlemen.

Urgent measures are needed to bring peace and human security, we are looking for every possible effort towards immediate cessation of Israeli aggression to prevent further lives loss. Decisive and joint actions are needed to support Palestinian health system, to support its rehabilitation and recovery by ensuring the provision of adequate financial and technical resources for the Palestinian ministry of health, WHO and relevant partners including the UNRWA which plays a major role in the provision of essential health and humanitarian services for the Palestinian refugees.

Achieving “Health for All Palestinians”, like elsewhere in the world, requires freedom of movement, unhindered universal access to healthcare services and treatment, human security and protection in accordance with the international humanitarian law and Geneva Convention, respect for

the right to health, and the right to have proper shelters, clean water and adequate nutrition.