



SOUTH AFRICA'S STATEMENT
77th SESSION OF THE WORLD HEALTH ASSEMBLY
27 May – 1 June 2024

COMMITTEE B

**ITEM 27: ALIGNING THE PARTICIPATION OF PALESTINE IN THE
WORLD HEALTH ORGANISATION WITH ITS
PARTICIPATION IN THE UNITED NATIONS.**

Chairperson,

South Africa thanks the Director General and the WHO Secretariat for the report and their efforts to advance global health, including through collaboration with the United Nations development system and other multilateral organisations.

Furthermore, my delegation supports efforts to promote synergy and alignment throughout the international system, and so reiterates its support for Palestine's full membership in the international system.

South Africa supports the UN General Assembly's recent Emergency Special Session on Palestine's membership in the UN, as well as the decision, under its resolution (ES 10/23), to grant the State of Palestine new rights and privileges in this regard. The overwhelming support for this resolution at the Emergency Special Session

confirms that a majority of Member States recognise Palestine as a State deserves its rightful place at the table with established presence.

Chairperson,

South Africa remains committed to efforts that seek to end the untold human suffering in the occupied Palestinian territory and contribute to progress towards the long overdue goal of a two-State solution. We concur with the Secretary-General of the United Nations, who underlined, earlier this year, *that “any refusal to accept the two-State solution by any party must be firmly rejected and that the denial of the right to Statehood would indefinitely prolong the conflict.”* Likewise, we welcome recent decisions by States that have committed to recognise the Palestinian State.

Furthermore, we recall the Constitution of the World Health Organisation (WHO) which affirms that: *The health of all peoples is fundamental to the attainment of peace and security and is dependent upon the fullest co-operation of individuals and States.*

The recognition of Palestine as a sovereign nation within the international legal system would be the initial step towards a secure and healthier future.

South Africa supports and co-sponsors the draft resolution before us, which is consistent with recent developments in the United Nations. The draft resolution recognises that *“Health for All”* cannot be realised unless we all have a seat at the table, as well as the necessity to give Palestine with an opportunity to play a meaningful role in global health for the benefit of all.

I Thank You.