



Statement of Ireland

78th World Health Assembly

Item 17.3

Health conditions in the occupied Palestinian territory, including East

Jerusalem

22nd May 2025

Chair,

Ireland aligns with the statement delivered by Poland on behalf of the European Union and its Member States.

We continue to witness appalling scenes from Gaza. Ireland strongly condemns the continuing Israeli military operations, which have brought fresh suffering to the people of Gaza and have breached the ceasefire.

Reports that Israel plans to expand its military operation in Gaza and establish a prolonged Israeli presence in the Strip are extremely alarming. Such a move would further compound an already dire situation. We strongly urge Israeli authorities to desist.

More than 18 months of fighting have caused a total destruction that can be difficult to comprehend, further compounded by almost 80 days of an Israeli blockade of vital, life-saving, humanitarian aid. The minimal supplies of aid we have seen enter Gaza over the past 24 hours are manifestly inadequate – a drop in the ocean.

Ireland is deeply concerned by Israel's stated intention to take control of the distribution of humanitarian aid through private contractors. Such an arrangement – designed to further control and restrict supplies – is unacceptable. .

We urge all parties to return to talks aimed at immediately agreeing a ceasefire. Humanitarian aid must be distributed at scale in Gaza by international humanitarian actors and according to humanitarian principles. All hostages must be released.

Thank you.