



Checked against delivery

78th World Health Assembly

Statement on behalf of the OIC Group delivered by Mr. Muneeb Ahmed, First Secretary, during consideration of Item 20, Decision on Health conditions in the occupied Palestinian territory, including East Jerusalem, and in the occupied Syrian Golan

(Geneva, 21 May 2025)

Madam Chair,

I am delivering this statement on behalf of the OIC Group¹.

We take note of the report of the Director General on health conditions in the occupied Palestinian territory (OPT), including East Jerusalem, and in the occupied Syrian Golan (OSG).

This Assembly's continued attention to the health conditions in the OPT and OSG has long been central to the attainment by all peoples of the highest possible level of health.

The draft Decision to be considered after this debate reflects the grave concern of the international community about the health conditions facing the people under illegal occupation in East Jerusalem, the West Bank, Gaza or the Syrian Golan, which successive reports of the Director General have served to document while bearing in mind the legal obligations of the occupying power.

The OIC Group condemns the illegal occupation's brazen disregard for the lives, health and well-being of the Palestinian population, which has resulted in unconscionable loss of life among innocent civilians.

Beyond the hail of bombs and bullets, the people under occupation face grave and still worsening risks from lack of access to food and medical supplies and wanton destruction of health care infrastructure.

¹ Except Albania

As the onslaught continues, they face malnutrition, famine, and a surge in preventable communicable diseases. Even after hostilities cease, if ever, lifelong trauma awaits.

Surgeries with no anaesthesia, hospitals under siege and attacks on ambulances and doctors are as unacceptable in the OPT as they would be anywhere else.

The previous year witnessed efforts to mislead this Assembly and politicise the mandate established by successive iterations of this historic Decision, but it has only emerged stronger.

Madam Chair,

The text under consideration should serve as a clear reminder of the dire health conditions in the OPT, their root causes in the context of a prolonged unlawful occupation, and the need for concerted international action to avert further tragedy.

We affirm our abiding solidarity with the Palestinian people under illegal occupation and look forward to this Decision receiving unequivocal support from all.

Thank you.

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