



Checked against delivery

78th World Health Assembly

**National Statement delivered by Mr. Muneeb Ahmed, First Secretary, during
consideration of Item 16.3, Decision on notifying the International Health Regulations
(2005) to Palestine**

(Geneva, 22 May 2025)

Madam Chair,

The IHR (International Health Regulations, of 2005) are an invaluable tool in the discharge of the mission to protect all peoples of the world from health risks.

The health system in occupied Palestine was always operating under severe constraints, especially with COVID-19 and the longstanding blockade of Gaza.

Over the past 19 months, it has been all but obliterated.

Health care workers, doctors, paramedics and nurses, first responders and ambulance services have all been targeted repeatedly.

Precious medicine and essential supplies are being singled out for destruction, as we saw in the Israeli strike on the Nasser Hospital on the same day that this Assembly convened.

Notifying the IHR is an important technical step towards equality in rights and dignity for the Palestinian people under occupation.

Pakistan welcomes the State of Palestine's accession to the IHR.

We are pleased to have cosponsored the resolution and fully support its consensual adoption.

Thank you.

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