



Statement of Ireland
79th World Health Assembly

Item 17.2

**Health conditions in the occupied Palestinian territory, including East
Jerusalem**

20 May 2026

Chair,

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

We thank the Director General for his reports on the Health conditions in the occupied Palestinian territory, including east Jerusalem,.

At the outset, Ireland wishes to commend the WHO for its unwavering commitment and dedication to the Palestinian people. We applaud their efforts in supporting vaccination campaigns and nutrition interventions, the delivery of essential medicines, supplies and fuel and work to maintain critical hospital and primary healthcare services. We note however that many facilities in the Gaza Strip remain non-functional, and access to specialized care continues to be limited

Ireland continues to have grave concerns about the worsening humanitarian situation and health and nutrition crisis in Gaza, with intolerable conditions including a widespread rodent infestation that's increasing the disease burden. Israel must immediately remove restrictions on aid access and facilitate essential supplies and services to reach people across the Gaza Strip.

It is essential that the UN, in particular UNRWA, and other humanitarian organisations, are facilitated in full to carry out their life-saving work in Gaza. Border crossings should remain open.

Ireland remains committed to working with key partners to end the conflict in Gaza, and to advancing a sustainable peace plan. Ending the conflict and addressing the huge challenges facing Palestinians in Gaza has implications for regional security and stability.

Ireland stands ready to play our part in working towards a sustainable peace between Israel and Palestine through the implementation of the two-State solution.

Thank you