



Statement by Pakistan at the 76th World Health Assembly (WHA76),
“Health conditions in the occupied Palestinian territory, including East Jerusalem,
and in the occupied Syrian Golan”

24 May 2023

Thank you, Chair,

Pakistan aligns itself with the statement delivered by Qatar on behalf of EMRO.

Everyone has the right to a standard of living adequate for the health and well-being of himself and of his family, including food, clothing, housing and medical care and necessary social service, reads the Article 25 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights.

While we celebrate the 75th anniversary of UDHR and 75th anniversary of WHO, 2023 also marks the completion of 75 years of Al-Nakba, or catastrophe, where millions of Palestinians were dispossessed of their homes and homeland in 1948.

The situation has only aggravated since then, with more people, including in East Jerusalem and the occupied Syrian Golan, living under the occupation regime.

Chair,

The Director General’s report (as contained in the document A76/15) has outlined grave situation emanating from the ongoing Israeli occupation with its impact particularly on the right to health. Poverty and food insecurity have increased in the occupied territories, with one third of the Palestinian population suffering through extreme food insecurity.

According to the report, there have been more than 10,000 casualties, where young children and women have also been targeted. Continued attacks on health facilities, and health workers is alarming.

The report also critically notes that these continued attacks are also affecting the long term physical and mental health of the residents in these occupied territories. Majority of population is facing psychosocial distress with percentage of population as high as 67% in certain refugee camps facing severe mental health issues.

There have been increasing raids on offices of different bodies working merely to protect right to health of those living under occupation. Important files and data sources have been confiscated by the occupation army, to impede the flow of information and to hide the true picture of the atrocities being committed.

This is all very concerning for us.

Respected Chair,

Pakistan appreciates the work done by WHO in such dire conditions and for its continued support to the people of Occupied Palestinian Territory, East Jerusalem and occupied Syrian Golan in ensuring their right to health.

We support the recommendations by the Director General to the occupying power of ending arbitrary delays in ensuring access to healthcare facilities and of ending arbitrary arrests and detentions of the healthcare force.

We also urge the international community to continue the humanitarian assistance and technical support to the Palestinians.

And because of the reasons just outlined, Pakistan has co-sponsored the draft decision submitted by Palestine as contained in document A76/B/CONF./1 and will vote in favor of the draft decision.

I thank you

Total words: 406
