

The Regional Committee,

Mindful of the basic principle contained in the WHO Constitution, which affirms that the health of all peoples is fundamental to the attainment of peace and security;

Aware of the responsibility entrusted to the World Health Assembly to ensure proper health conditions for all people who suffer from exceptional situations, including foreign occupation and especially settler colonialism;

Deeply concerned at the obstacles caused by the occupying authorities which hamper the provision of basic health services and the establishment and strengthening of health centres and hospitals in the occupied Arab territories including Palestine;

Appalled at the inhuman practices resorted to by the occupation authorities against the Palestinian people to suppress the brave struggle (intifada) as exemplified in the use of suffocating and toxic gases; brutal beatings; bone-breaking; child murder; forced abortions; raids on hospitals and health centres; assaults on physicians, nurses and other health workers; and the coercive measures of large-scale expulsions, banishment and arrest;

Recalling United Nations resolutions on the right of the Palestinian people to self-determination;

1. EMPHASIZES the WHO responsibility towards the Palestinian people in the occupied Arab territories, as regards securing for them the highest attainable level of health, as a basic human right;
2. REITERATES the importance of continuing and increasing cooperation with the Palestine Liberation Organization so as to permit implementation of the health plans established by WHO for the well-being of the Palestinian people;
3. REQUESTS the Director-General to emphasize the international character of WHO collaborating centres, which fall directly under his supervision, and to entrust their management to concerned Palestinians so that they are not subject to the influence of the occupation authorities;
4. RECOMMENDS that the World Health Assembly formulate a comprehensive and properly programmed health plan, in collaboration with the Palestinian Red Crescent Society and the Regional Committee for the Eastern Mediterranean, in order to meet the long-term and short-term health needs of the Palestinian people, and earmark and provide the necessary funds for the implementation of this plan, together with its programmes, and establish a special working unit for the Palestinian people at WHO Headquarters to follow up the implementation of this plan and its programmes in the occupied Arab territories;
5. THANKS international and voluntary organizations, especially UNRWA, for the efforts made by them for improving health conditions in the occupied Arab territories including Palestine and looks forward to the continuing provision of the financial support necessary for maintaining the activities of UNRWA;
6. THANKS the Director-General and the Regional Director for the Eastern Mediterranean for their commendable efforts and requests them to transmit this resolution to the Forty-second World Health Assembly to be convened in May 1989.