
**World Health Organization
WHA 74 – 26 May 2021**

**Committee B (25) – After Vote
Health conditions in the Palestinian territory and the Golan**

Delivered by Ambassador Meirav Eilon Shahrar
Permanent Representative of Israel in Geneva

Thank you chair, Director General

I would like to thank Member States who voted “NO” today. By voting NO, they have acknowledged that the politicization of the World Health Organization must end. By voting No they have chosen to preserve the integrity of this professional body. They know that voting NO does not change the fact that Member States will continue to provide aid and support the Palestinian people. That WHO will carry on its technical assistance and work with the PA. That Israel will continue to welcome professional discussions on ways to improve the health conditions of the Palestinians.

By adopting this decision, the other member states have chosen to continue to allow the Syrians to whitewash their own abhorrent crimes, they have chosen to continue to allow the Palestinians to hijack this professional forum and turn it to another place to pursue political goals and they have chosen to adopt a decision that does nothing and is disconnected from reality.

Director General,

Since the outbreak of this Pandemic, COVID-19 has brought the WHO further into the spotlight. The world was and still is looking at WHO to provide professional leadership. Despite the overwhelming challenges presented by the pandemic, it has also led to a very welcome process of reviews, the emergence of new initiatives and harnessed global support .

Now is the time to examine priorities, what is effective and what is not ?

Director General, Dr Tedros,

You mentioned in the opening of this assembly that now is the time to make bold choices. Let's take one and stop the politicization of this forum by deleting this item from the agenda .

As a wise man once said to me "Health can be a bridge to peace". Let that be the case .

This decision has become a ritual. It is time to let it go and start to move forward. It is time to build back better .

Thank you.