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Oral Statement The Lutheran World Federation

44th Session of the Human Rights Council Item 7: Human rights situation in Palestine and other occupied Arab territories, ID with Special Rapporteur on OPT

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The Lutheran World Federation

Thank you Madame President:

The Lutheran World Federation thanks the Special Rapporteur for his report, and expresses its concern for the annexation plans of the government of Israel of part of the West Bank. This is contrary to international law and represent an obstacle for the prospect of the two-state solution and for the peace and wellbeing of all Palestinians and Israelis alike.

The annexation plan is already having negative effects on the right to health for Palestinians from Gaza. The lack of coordination between the Palestinian Authority and the Government of Israel, is particularly affecting patients in Gaza who currently have no means to obtain Israeli-issued permits to access the healthcare they need.

We recall the resolutions of the Human Rights Council, in its 43rd session (A/HRC/43/L.38/Rev.1, and A/HRC/43/L.37/Rev.1), where the Council expressed its concern over the Israeli permit as a discriminatory practice against Palestinians, and reiterated the responsibility of Israel as the occupying power to grant exit permits for Palestinians who need medical treatment outside Gaza.

We therefore call for:

- A continuous assessment of the possible consequences of annexation on the right to health of Palestinians;
- The protection of the fundamental right to health and access to essential health care for all Palestinians;
- Changes in the Israeli permit regime, which is affecting the access to health for Palestinians in Gaza.

I thank you, Madame President