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Prof Tasleem Ras (President) and Dr Jenny Nash (Secretary)

SAAFP

Dear Tasleem and Jenny,

Urgent Motion for Consideration at the 2025 AGM – Palestine and the Protection of Healthcare

I write as a Full Member of the South African Academy of Family Physicians (SAAFP) to formally submit a motion for consideration at the upcoming Annual General Meeting on **Friday, 5 September 2025**, at Midrand Conference Centre.

I acknowledge that this submission falls just outside the 15-business-day notice period stipulated in Article 5.4 of the MOI. However, given the **urgent humanitarian and legal crisis in Palestine**, and the **International Court of Justice's findings of plausible genocide and apartheid**, I believe this matter cannot wait. The destruction of Gaza's primary healthcare system is not a future risk — it is a present, ongoing catastrophe.

As of May 2025, **at least 1,400 healthcare workers** — doctors, nurses, paramedics, and surgeons — have been killed in Gaza, according to Medical Aid for Palestinians (MAP). This is the highest number of health workers killed in any conflict in modern history. Hospitals have been bombed, ambulances targeted, and

medical students systematically erased. The UN Commission of Inquiry has stated these attacks amount to **war crimes and the crime against humanity of extermination.**

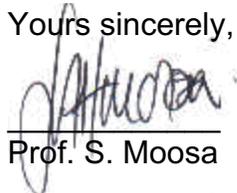
Our MOI (Section 1.1.1) commits us to “***promote optimal health for the people in Southern Africa through advocacy, support and the development of the primary health care team.***” This duty does not end at our borders. When an entire health system is being dismantled — as in Gaza — our silence contradicts our core mission. Similarly, Section 1.1.3 mandates us to “***represent and further the interests of Family Physicians in South Africa, Africa and other international forums.***” This includes speaking out when family doctors are being targeted globally.

WONCA issued detailed, urgent statements on Ukraine. For Palestine, the response has been vague, delayed, and lacking specificity. This ***double standard*** undermines our collective moral authority.

I therefore request that the Chair consider admitting this motion under ***urgency***, or that members be allowed to ***suspend the rules*** to permit its discussion, in accordance with the spirit of democratic process and ethical responsibility.

I am available to discuss this at your earliest convenience and welcome the opportunity to engage with the Council before the AGM.

Yours sincerely,



Prof. S. Moosa

Full Member, SAAFP

Former President, WONCA Africa and Former Member at Large, WONCA World

Founder, Family Doctors for Global Justice Caucus