POSITION PAPER

**COMMITTEE: UNITED NATIONS GENERAL ASSEMBLY**

**COUNTRY: ISRAEL**

**AGENDA: CONSEQUENCES OF PANDEMIC**

**Israel**, is a country in Western Asia. Israel was expected to be one of the hardest hit countries during COVID 19 but we were able to control the spread by taking affective and timely measures. we suspended flights from china on 26 January , on 22 February when a flight from Seoul, South Korea, landed at Ben Gurion International Airport, we took an ad hoc decision to only allow Israeli citizens to disembark and all non-Israeli citizens aboard were returned to South Korea. Subsequently Israel barred the entry of non-Israeli citizens, who had stayed in South Korea 14 days prior to arrival in Israel. The same directive was applied to those arriving from Japan from 23 February. On 26 February, Israel issued a travel warning to Italy and cancelled all travel abroad from 11 March.

Israel implemented social distancing and other rules to limit the spread of infection, Gatherings were first restricted to less than 100 people, and on 15 March this figure was lowered to 10 people, with attendees advised to keep a distance of 2 m (6 ft. 7 inches) between one another. On 19 March, Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu declared a national state of emergency, making existing restrictions legally enforceable, and violators to be fined. Israelis were not allowed to leave their homes unless necessary. Only essential services—including food stores, pharmacies, and banks were allowed to be open. Restrictions on movement were further tightened on 25 March and 1 April, with all individuals instructed to cover their noses and mouths outdoors. As coronavirus diagnoses spiked in the city of Bnei Brak, reaching nearly 1,000 infected individuals at the beginning of April, the cabinet voted to declare the city a "restricted zone", limiting entry and exit for a period of one week.

The Israeli intelligence agency, Mossad played an important role in acquiring the medical gear and knowledge needed in the pandemic. Mossad brought 100,000 coronavirus kits from abroad by special flight on March 19. They procured second shipment of 1.5 million surgical masks, tens of thousands of N-95masks, protective overalls, protective goggles, and a range of medications much needed at initial stage. Mossad also helped Israel get necessary technical know-how to produce ventilators, protective masks and other gears, using this acquired technology Israel could timely produce millions of protective masks , gears and ventilators in Israel at low cost. Israel also scaled up production of rapid diagnostic kits which could detect coronavirus in 50 minutes, we also used AI to automate testing. In order to do quick testing and reach a larger population, pooling of multiple samples in one testing was done

To enforce effective quarantine, we used technology to track cell phones of people suspected of COVID19, we used advanced technologies like face recognition for tracking of suspected corona patients, here Israel expertise in machine learning and AI helped improve data quality. All these measures have helped us to limit the number of cases to approximately 19,637 of which 15,459 cases have already recovered and 303 deaths have taken place currently, we only have 2680 active cases which is far less compared to other countries of our size. Thus, our strategy of containing COVID19 has been successful. To further strengthen our efforts, Israel's innovation authority has offered $14 million of grant to start-ups coming up with solutions to fight COVID19, this is helping in developing new technology and systems. These start-ups are also leading the development of many new vaccines which can help to combat COVID19 in future.