**COVID-19 Symposium at the INDC**

**General**

1. Israel, and the world at large, is currently facing the Corona pandemic. This is a challenge in the field of national security, and as such deserves to be investigated within the INDC.
2. On May 6, 2020, the INDC will be hosting a symposium on this matter. The assumption is that at that date we will continue with the online learning. If there are any eases in the guidelines, adjustments will be made.
3. The objectives of the symposium are the uses of dealing with the COVID-19 as a way of addressing core issues related to national security, alongside studying and deepening the dilemmas and challenges that accompany the management of the Corona crisis as a topical issue.
4. The symposium will be part of a learning complex that will grant the participants in 3 symmetrical weekly hours together with the "East Seminar", so it will involve a summary assignment as detailed below.

**Symposium Structure**

* 1. The day will consist of plenum presentations, and work with the teams.
	2. The Commandant will open the day, after that there will be a guest lecture. Next there will be 2 sessions in the organic teams, each team will be divided into pairs or trios, according to the team selection. Each subgroup will study in depth a core issue from the list listed in the appendix. At the end there will be a summary in the plenum, the format will be decided later on.
	3. Symposium schedule:
* 08:30-09:00 – opening by the Commandant
* 9:00- 10:15 - guest lecturer
* 10:30- 12:00 - working in teams
* 13:30- 15:00 - working in teams
* 15:30 – 17:00 – summary and presentations
1. Presenting the issues in the plenum should include reference to the following elements:
	1. description of the issue that is in the central of the in investigation
	2. How the issue is learned.
	3. Challenges and dilemmas
	4. Alternatives to address the issue
	5. Recommendations for action \ policy regarding to the issue

**Preliminary Assessments**

1. Each team should conduct an internal discussion and rate 6 topics from the list of topics in the appendix that they would like to engage in (as mentioned, in about 3 subgroups)
2. After receiving team preferences (until April 6), the staff will assign three topics to each team (there is a possibility that more than one team may address a particular topic).
3. A team wishing to propose a topic that is not included in the list will forward to the undersigned.
4. Once the subject list is received, each team will determine the learning format and timing for the learning day itself (where as mentioned, two learning durations will be provided at the team level).

**Beneficial Learning and happy Passover!**

**Sincerely,**

**INDC Faculty**

**Appendix: Coping with COVID-19 – Research Options**

1. **Managing the Corona Campaign:** who’s authority and responsibility is it to manage the crisis in Israel/other countries? Is it according to contingency plans? Is it better to divide into areas of responsibility? Who is the chief decision maker? How should they make those decisions? What should be taken into consideration? How should we balance the considerations**?**
2. **The Palestinian Arena:** What are the risks associated with a massive outbreak of disease in Gaza and the PA, and as a result - what should be Israel's policy on dealing with the pandemic in these areas? Between active involvement and differentiation. You may discuss issues such as the distribution of COVID-19 as terrorism, legal and media aspects, etc.
3. **Outbreak of a Pandemic in a Democratic State - Individual Rights Verses Public Health**: Whether and in what ways is it appropriate to use tools approved by the Emergency Protection Regulations intended to combat terrorism, espionage and subversion? What are the dilemmas involved in exercising these capabilities that violate the privacy and individual rights in a democratic state?
4. **“The Day After”:** How should we prepare to live in the shadow of the Corona virus in the various national security areas? Can the crisis be used to seize new opportunities? Examples of relevant fields - political issues and redistribution of national resources.
5. **“Unique” Populations (Ultra-Orthodox/Israeli Arabs/Arabs of East Jerusalem/Others):** Is it right to treat the unique populations differently, if yes how? What are the challenges and dilemmas that arise when dealing with these populations?
6. **Economic Challenges:** How to deal with the economic crisis that is already affecting the country, and how to prepare nationally for the economic challenges expected at the end of the crisis? You may discuss the various sectors such as the aviation market, the tourism market, the public sector, the employment/unemployment issue etc.
7. **Treatment of Citizens Who are Out of State During the Crisis (not necessarily Israelis):** Is there and what is the limit of the state's responsibility towards its citizens who are out of state during a crisis? Is it right and how much to use political levers for this?
8. **Political-Security Opportunities:** what are these opportunities in the corona pandemic? Policy coalitions, removing export barriers to medical equipment procurement, counterterrorism efforts in the Iranian context, etc.
9. **The World’s Order:** How will the globalization process evolve following the Corona crisis? Is a new world order expected? What are its characteristics? What can the State of Israel and other countries do now to secure their proper place in the new order?
10. **Publicity:** who’s authority and responsibility, will manage public information during a national crisis (in Israel / other countries)? Is it right that more than one cause will have an explanation? How correct is it to allow opinion pluralism from government officials (for example, in healtharea)?