**Possible Questions for an Exchange Between NATO IMS and Israel**

Prepared by IMS O&P, 13 November 2019

Action Officer: Mr. Jean Backhus (1161)

As a background for our exchange, we would like to share with you the following understanding of hybrid threats:

Hybrid threats result from adversaries using comprehensive strategies based on a broad, complex, adaptive and often highly integrated combination of conventional and unconventional means, asymmetric attacks as well as overt and covert activities, by military, paramilitary, irregular or civilian actors, which are targeted to achieve defined political and strategic objectives. They are directed at the target’s vulnerabilities, focused on complicating decision-making and sowing doubt within societies, and conducted across the full DIMEFIL[[1]](#footnote-1) spectrum in order to create ambiguity and be deniable – notably through disinformation, cyber attacks, economic pressure, and the use of irregular armed groups and proxy actors as well as of regular forces. Adversaries employing hybrid strategies will seek to remain ambiguous, claim pursuit of legitimate goals or try to keep their activities below a perceived threshold that would result in a coordinated (military) response from the target or the international community. Hybrid methods are used to blur the lines between war and peace. Direct military confrontation is mostly avoided, although military assets are part of the tools overtly or covertly used in pursuing hybrid strategies. While terrorist attacks can represent a tool used by adversary actors as part of a hybrid campaign, hybrid and terrorist threats pose – in their nature, underlying causes and possible responses to these – distinct and different challenges.

Understanding that Israel is using different terms and definitions for these events, we would appreciate to learn more about these from you.

The following topics and questions are of interest to NATO IMS and could serve as a starting point for an exchange between NATO IMS and Israel. These questions are all meant to be explored in a hybrid threat context.

1. Lawfare: What forms of Lawfare is Israel faced with by which actors? What are the specific challenges and how do they affect military operations and political and military decision-making? What are Israel’s responses to this issue?
2. Military operations under condition of disinformation: How is disinformation a challenge for Israel’s military operations and political and military decision-making? What tools and strategies are used by which adversaries? How does Israel deal with this challenge?
3. Emerging technologies on the battlefield: How are emerging technologies (low and high tech) used by Israel or by Israel’s adversaries in an operational environment? How are these technologies driving hybrid warfare or making it more challenging? How can these issues be mitigated?

Equally, we are looking forward to answering any questions you have on NATO’s counter-hybrid approaches.

1. Diplomatic, Information, Military, Economic, Financial, Intelligence and Law Enforcement [↑](#footnote-ref-1)