16 April 2020

**INDC 47th Class Participants**

**INDC Commandant**

**Prof. Yossi Ben Artzi**

**Dr. Doron Navot**

**Re: COVID-19 Learning Day**

**General**

1. Israel, and the world at large, is currently facing the Corona pandemic. This is a first rate national security challenge, and as such it is an appropriate topic to be investigated within the INDC.
2. On 6 May, 2020, the INDC will dedicate a learning day to this matter.
3. The objectives of the learning day are to use the COVID-19 pandemic to address core issues related to national security, alongside deeply investigating the dilemmas and challenges that accompany the management of the Corona crisis.
4. This day will be part of a learning "package" that will grant the participants 3 academic credits, together with the "East Seminar". It will therefore include a preparation phase that will involve independent learning, and a group final assignment as detailed below.
5. We are preparing to conduct the learning day online. Adjustments will be made, as much as possible, according to updated Health Ministry guidelines.

**Learning Day Structure**

* 1. Each organic team will be divided into pairs and/or trios, as the team chooses. Each subgroup will study in depth a core issue from the list in the appendix.
	2. On the learning day itself the subgroups in each organic team will conduct an integrative discussion, and will devise **recommendations for decision makers in relation to the breakout strategy from the state of lockdown** in which the country will be on the learning day. The teams will base their discussion on the independent learning which took place prior to the learning day, with regards to the topics chosen by each subgroup, and will merge the relevant considerations of these topics. The results of the integrative discussion will be presented in the final plenum session. This presentation will constitute the final group assignment.
	3. Learning Day planned schedule:
* 08:30-09:00 - opening by the Commandant
* 9:00- 10:15 - guest lecturer
* 10:30- 12:00 - discussion in teams
* 13:30- 15:00 - discussion in teams
* 15:30 – 17:00 –presentations and summary
1. The presentations should include reference to the following elements:
	1. Description of the main idea (conception) for the chosen breakout strategy, including the assumptions on which the idea is based.
	2. Description of the topics that were investigated by the subgroups.
	3. Challenges, dilemmas and tensions during the integration process.
	4. Policy recommendations.

**Preliminary Preparations**

1. Each team should conduct an internal discussion and rate 6 topics from the list in the appendix that they would like to work on (as mentioned, in about 3 subgroups)
2. After receiving each team's preferences (until April 20th), the staff will assign three topics to each team (there is a possibility that more than one team will address a particular topic).
3. A team wishing to propose a topic that is not included in the list, will forward its idea for approval by the Chief Instructor.
4. Once the subject list is assigned, each team will determine the learning format and timing until the learning day itself.

**We wish you all beneficial learning, and a happy holiday season!**

**Sincerely,**

**INDC Staff**

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

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/should be the chief decision maker? How should they make those decisions? Which government agencies should be involved and how? What should be taken into consideration? How should one balance the considerations**?**
2. **The Palestinian Arena:** What should be Israel's policy on dealing with the pandemic in Gaza and the PA? Between active involvement and disengagement. What are the risks and opportunities involved? You may discuss issues such as the distribution of COVID-19 as a terrorism tool, 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? How can one control the use of these tools? How can one ensure that information is not leaked? How and when should the use of extraordinary tools be stopped? What are the dilemmas involved in exercising these capabilities that violate the privacy and individual rights in a democratic state?
4. **“The Day After”:** Will a certain event mark the end of the "COVID-19 era"? How should we prepare to live in the presence of the Corona virus in the various national security areas? Is there a need for a different behavior in "the day after"? Is a "second wave" expected? If so, how should we prepare? Does the crisis also constitute an opportunity? Which new opportunities are there as a result of the crisis, if any, and how can we seize them? Examples of relevant fields include political-diplomatic issues and redistribution of national resources.
5. **“Unique” Populations (Ultra-Orthodox/Israeli Arabs/Arabs of East Jerusalem/Others):** Is it appropriate to treat unique populations differently? If so- how? What are the challenges and dilemmas that arise when dealing with these populations? Which relations should we cultivate between these populations and the rest?
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 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 the Country 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 the country during a crisis? Is it appropriate to use political-diplomatic levers, and how much?
8. **Political-Security Opportunities:** What opportunities in these fields does the corona pandemic present? You may refer to international political coalitions, removal of export barriers on the procurement of medical equipment, 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. **Media Policy and Public Diplomacy:** Who’s authority and responsibility is it to conduct public diplomacy and manage the media policy during a national crisis (in Israel / other countries)? Is it appropriate that more than one government agency will convey information to the public? Is it appropriate to allow opinion pluralism by government officials publicly (for example in the healtharea)?