5 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. The assumption at this stage is that we will continue with the online learning. Adjustments will be made as much as possible according to updated Health Ministry instructions.
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 as a topical issue.
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 group assignment as detailed below.

**Learning Day Structure**

* 1. The day will consist of 2 plenum sessions, and 2 working sessions within the organic teams. Before the day itself, there will be independent learning involved as detailed below.
  2. 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. On the learning day itself the subgroups in each organic team will conduct an integrative discussion around a selected question, in which they will merge the topics learned by each subgroup. The results of the integrative discussion will be presented in the final plenum session.
  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 question around which the integration was conducted.
   2. Description of the topics that were investigated by the subgroups.
   3. Challenges and dilemmas 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 6), 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 (where, as mentioned, two sessions will be conducted in the teams).

**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 the chief decision maker? How should they make those decisions? What should be taken into consideration? How should one 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 disengagement. 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? 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 presence of the Corona virus in the various national security areas? Can the crisis be used to seize new opportunities? 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 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 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)?