Israel would like to exercise its Right of Reply, in accordance with Rule 57 of the Rules of Procedure of the World Health Assembly and Rule 9 of the Special Procedures to regulate the conduct of the virtual de minimis meeting of the 73rd World Health Assembly in response to the statement made by the representative of the observer delegation of the Palestinian Authority.

Israel utterly rejects the continuous distortion of facts and reality on the ground as reflected in the Palestinian statement. Instead of the constant false portrayal and intentional disregard of statements given by the Secretary General and the UN and the Special Coordinator to the Middle East both commending the cooperation and efforts to prevent the spread of Covid-19 epidemic, it would have been more encouraging to use the opportunity and focus on the positive cooperation and delivery of COVID-19-related PPE and other equipment by Israel to the Palestinian Authority.

Unfortunately, the Palestinians have decided to continue using this platform cynically for their political manipulations, let alone during these extraordinary days and reality on the ground.

Israel nonetheless remains committed to actively promoting and improving health standards globally and regionally by strengthening the close collaboration with all partners, including the Palestinians, to ensure adequate preparedness and response to the current pandemic.

We ask that our position be made part of the record of the proceedings.