



World Health Organization**WHA 73rd Session, 10 November 2020**

H.E. Mr. Yuli Edelstein
Minister of Health, State of Israel

Director General, Excellencies, distinguished colleagues,

First of all, I would like to express Israel's deepest appreciation to the tireless work of all medical teams around the world for their dedication in the fight against the COVID-19 pandemic, and to the WHO for coordinating the international response.

Since the outbreak of the COVID-19 pandemic, health systems worldwide as well as economies and businesses have been deeply affected. Israel would like to emphasize the importance of multilateral cooperation in responding to this pandemic. We wish to thank all the Member States who participate in the invaluable consultations, who work to produce vaccines, or simply share their experiences with others in order to identify best practices.

In Israel, we view this international cooperation as absolutely critical to our COVID-19 national response strategy, as well as maintaining and improving our health system in general. Our world-renowned medical professionals have worked without pause in order to ensure that Israel takes part in these collaborations, from Washington, D.C., to Prague, to Abu Dhabi, New-Delhi, and many more.

We would also like to thank the WHO, GAVI – the vaccine alliance and CEPI, for establishing the COVAX Facility and their work on e\l once they are available. Israel is honored to be taking part in this alliance.

Israel supports any action ensuring efficient and effective information exchange. The reporting of verified data is a critical part of the worldwide response to COVID-19, and if we set up the proper infrastructure now, we have the potential to save millions of lives in the future.

Last but certainly not least, I would like to recognize the vital role of the nurses and midwives of Israel and worldwide. This year, the World Health Organization had planned to mark the Year of Nurses and Midwives, and Israel was proudly set to host the European Regional Committee and spotlight our wonderful nurses and midwives. Both

during this COVID-19 pandemic and every other day of the year, we must acknowledge and remember that our health system relies on our skilled, motivated nurses and midwives.

I thank you for all you do for global health, and I would like to assure you of our full commitment to supporting this sacred goal.

Thank you.