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**UN Human Rights Council  
44<sup>th</sup> Session, 8 July 2020**

**Panel discussion on the impacts, opportunities and challenges of new and emerging digital technologies with regard to the promotion and protection of human rights**

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Thank you, Madam President.

We welcome the convening of the present panel and this timely opportunity to discuss some of the numerous contexts in which human rights are impacted and challenged by the emergence of new digital technologies.

Israel is known to be a "start-up" nation and as such is fully invested and committed to the development of new technologies as a way of promoting and protecting human rights for all.

Israel has submitted a detailed response to the Advisory Committee questionnaire on this issue, sharing some of its good practices and ideas on how new technologies can positively affect the lives of vulnerable groups and advance inclusion and prosperity.

Already in 2013, Israel established the "National Digital Israel Initiative" in order to narrow disparities between populations and geographic areas, provide equal opportunities to all, and promote a digital, innovative and technologically leading and diverse society.

Madam President,

In the last few days, the Human Rights Council has focused on the disastrous impact of COVID-19 on the most vulnerable groups. In line with the use of new technologies to promote and protect human rights, Israel's Health Maintenance Organizations developed a platform of health services through digital technologies. The platform includes consultation with a doctor through a video call, order medicaments through an app, or access medical advice online, without additional costs. Furthermore, special tutorials and hotlines were made available in different languages, including Hebrew, Arabic and Russian, in order to ensure the access of all to these services and the full enjoyment of the right to attain the highest possible standard of health.

Finally, Israel recognizes that in spite of the huge benefits and contributions that digital technologies may bring, they also pose risks to the enjoyment of human rights such as the right to privacy and others. Israel takes these issues seriously, and has established the Authority for the Protection of Privacy, in the Ministry of Justice, and the National Cyber Authority, in the Prime Minister's Office, in order to guide all government authorities in developing policy that keeps with the limits of the law, including Israeli Constitutional Law and International Human Rights Law.

Thank you.