
World Health Organization
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National Statement

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Thank you chair,

Esteemed colleagues, we are nearly a year and a half into the COVID-19 pandemic. Thanks to the tireless efforts of healthcare workers and those who worked on the various vaccines against the virus, we are beginning to see the light at the end of the tunnel.

Israel is a small country with advanced information technology and logistics capabilities allowing for a smooth and successful vaccine rollout. This setting provided a robust platform to examine vaccine effectiveness and the impact of high vaccine coverage in real-life conditions at a national level. By May, low infection rates indicated effective control of the pandemic within the country's borders with lift of most domestic restrictions. Unfortunately, we are still experiencing a continuous stream of infected individuals travelling to the country, including those infected with new variants, despite strict testing and entry policies. This phenomenon indicates the need for an international approach to safe travel based on vaccine verification of the individual traveler.

Like most countries, Israel suffered during the pandemic, and each life lost to COVID was a tragedy. We know that many other countries are still facing waves of increased covid-19 cases, shortages in supply and overall fatigue. We know that no one is safe until everyone has access to a vaccine. We recognize that this is a global challenge and we have to fight it together, in solidarity. Thus, we are proud to share our lessons learned from the vaccination efforts with the international community. We will continue to share our experiences in vaccine rollout and encourage vaccine. We encourage this body to take coordinated steps to combat vaccine hesitancy worldwide.

Excellencies, we are not yet in the clear.

To be truly free of the COVID-19 pandemic, we must ensure the vaccination of all people worldwide. Israel would like to emphasize the imperative role of multilateral and global cooperation in responding to this pandemic. We wish to thank all the Member States who participate in the invaluable consultations with WHO, who work to produce vaccines, or share their experiences with others to identify best practices. Israel would also like to emphasize the importance of ensuring access to information as well as meaningful participation by all stakeholders in addressing this global challenge. In this spirit, we are collaborating with our neighbors to ensure supply and efficiency of vaccine rollout.

As we look forward, if we are to learn from this COVID-19 pandemic, we will be able to strengthen the worldwide health system in a manner never seen before. The multidimensional challenges the COVID-19 crisis has created should serve as a strong reminder that resilient health systems are the backbone of our societies and economies and that close collaboration is imperative in assuring health for all.

In the spirit of protecting human lives and “leaving no one behind”, we reaffirm Israel’s commitment to strengthening existing tools and creating new mechanisms in order to effectively address the current global challenge and the ones to come.

Thank you.