

8 July 2020

Original: English

(20-4694) Page: 1/1

Committee on Sanitary and Phytosanitary Measures

AD HOC REPORT ON COVID-19 MEASURES TAKEN BY ISRAEL IN THE AGRICULTURAL SECTOR

SUBMISSION BY ISRAEL

The following document, received on 8 July 2020, is being circulated at the request of the delegation of <u>Israel</u>.

- 1.1. This ad hoc report covers measures adopted by Israel in relation to COVID-19 as of 18 June 2020.
- 1.2. Following the spread of COVID-19, the government of Israel issued emergency regulations, including various restrictions on commercial activities in order to reduce the infection and the virus spread. Agricultural production and related industry and services are considered essential and are therefore excluded from these regulations. Services in farms and ports of entry, such as plant protection inspectors and veterinarians, have continued.
- 1.3. The Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development has conducted daily assessments of the availability of fresh agricultural produce. Following these assessments, voluntary duty-free TRQs have been temporarily increased to import onions, cucumbers and eggs.
- 1.4. The plant protection and inspection services (PPIS) and veterinary and animal health services (IVSAH) have also facilitated imports by accepting official and scanned copies of original phytosanitary or health certificates, as well as e-certifications that can be verified, for specific products and under certain conditions.