COUNTRY PROFILE

TAKING OF EVIDENCE BY VIDEO-LINK UNDER THE HAGUE CONVENTION OF 18 MARCH 1970 ON THE TAKING OF EVIDENCE ABROAD IN CIVIL OR COMMERCIAL MATTERS

STATE NAME: Israel

PROFILE UPDATED ON (DATE): 19/2/20

PART I: STATE

1. Contact details The contact details provided in this section will be	published on the Hague Conference website
CHAPTER I (LETTERS OF REQUEST)	
As with any other Letter of Request under Chapter authority should contact the Central Authority obtain evidence by means of a Letter of Request,	es) of the requested State when seeking to
a) Are the contact details of the Central Authority(ies) designated by Your State up- to-date on the <u>Evidence Section</u> of the Hague Conference website?	 ✓ Yes. No. Please provide the contact details on a separate Word or PDF document for uploading on the Evidence Section of the Hague Conference website.
b) Would Your State be in favour of specifying a person or department within the Central Authority(ies) who would assist in processing Letters of Request where the use of video-links has expressly been requested (e.g., to arrange the video-link or provide technical assistance)?	Yes. If Your State has already done so, please specify the contact details: Shiri Perlmutter Tel.: +972 (74) 748 1856 E-mail: Foreign.Countries@court.gov.il
	No. Please explain why:
	Comments:
c) What arrangements are there for ensuring that there is a contact person with whom the requesting authority can liaise and who is available on the day of the hearing to operate the video-link facilities (e.g. is there a booking system)?	The court will appoint a contact person when necessary.

CHAPTER II (TAKING OF EVIDENCE BY DIPLOMATIC OFFICERS, CONSULAR AGENTS AND COMMISSIONERS)

Permission by a designated authority may be required to apply certain provisions under Chapter II. To know if such a permission is required for a particular State, see the practical information chart (accessible from the <u>Authorities</u> page) AND / OR the declarations (accessible from the <u>Status Table</u> page) of the relevant State available on the <u>Evidence Section</u> of the Hague Conference website.

If permission is not required, applicants should contact the diplomatic and consular mission (Arts 15/16) or the commissioner (Art. 17) to explore whether or not evidence may be obtained by video-link under this Chapter.

If permission is required, applicants should contact the authority that was designated to grant permission AND the relevant diplomatic and consular mission or commissioner, to explore, where necessary, whether or not evidence may be obtained by video-link under this Chapter.

aı re	Vould Your State be in favour of specifying n entity or authority, in addition to the elevant authority / diplomatic or onsular agent / commissioner, that		Yes. If Your State has already done so, please specify the contact details:
w th re	rould assist in processing applications where ne use of video-links has expressly been equested (e.g., to arrange the video-link or rovide technical assistance)?	\boxtimes	No. Please explain why:
		Comn	nents:
			ael, the judicial and administrative authorities of the state of Israel are not generally involved in the taking of evidence under chapter II, and there is no centralized body that oversees the operation of chapter II. de Israel, there is no practice or regulation of taking of evidence by
			Israeli diplomatic or consular officers.
th Co or vi	What arrangements are there for ensuring nat there is a contact person with whom the court of Origin can liaise and who is available in the day of the hearing to operate the ideo-link facilities (e.g. is there a booking ystem)?	N/A.	see comment in section d above.

PART II: RELEVANT LEGISLATION AND COURT SYSTEM

Legal basis	
a) Does Your State, in the application of Article 27 (i.e. internal law or practice), allow for a foreign Court to directly take evidence by video-link?	Yes. Please specify: In addition to directly taking evidence, Israel allows the foreign country to send a representative that can take the evidence. No. Please specify: Comments:
b) Please indicate the legal basis or applicable protocols (i.e., relevant laws, regulations, practice, etc.) for the use of video-links in the taking of evidence in YOUR STATE, either under the Convention or independent of the Convention (see, e.g. Art. 27 (b) and (c)): Please also attach a copy of, or provide a link to, the relevant provisions, where possible in English or French.	Regulations on mutual legal assistance - 1999: Taking testimony over closed circuit television, Article 15: 15. If a competent authority, a foreign competent authority or a party requested that the testimony be taken over international closed circuit television, then the court may approve that, if arrangements were made to make the following possible: (a) for the Court and the parties- to see the witness in the course of the entire testimony, to hear him and to address questions to him; (b) for the defendant- to keep in contact with his defense attorney and through him to address questions to the witness. Evidence Ordinance, Article 13: 13. Evidence on commission in civil proceedings (A) On the application of any party to any civil proceedings, the court may, where it appears necessary for the purpose of justice and subject to such terms as the court may direct, make any order for the examination upon affidavit before any person and in any place outside the jurisdiction of the court of any witness or other person and may give directions as to any matter connected with the examination as may appear reasonable and just and may permit any party to the proceedings to give the deposition in evidence therein. (B) Any person so directed to take any examination may administer the oath and make a special report to the court as to the examination and the conduct or absence of any witness or other person thereat, and the court may direct such proceedings and make such order as may

	seem just.
c) Does Your State have any agreements with other Contracting States that derogate from the Convention when taking evidence by video-link (see Art. 28 and Art. 32)?	 Yes. Please attach a copy of, or provide a link to, the relevant provisions, where possible in English or French: No. Comments:
Court system	
d) Please indicate which courts permit, or have the facilities for, the taking of evidence by video-link. If possible, indicate where relevant information on videoconferencing facilities in courts can be found online:	 ✓ All courts. ☐ All courts of a specific type / level. Please specify: ☐ Only specific courts. Please specify which courts, or provide a link to/attach a full list: ☐ None. Comments:

PART III: TECHNICAL AND SECURITY ASPECTS (APPLICABLE TO BOTH CHAPTERS)

a) Does Your State use licensed software (which ensures support for technical and security matters) for the taking of evidence by videolink?	
b) What are the specifications of the video-link technology in use in YOUR STATE, including, if any, the minimum standards or mechanisms used to secure the communications and any recordings made? States are encouraged to provide as much information as possible when responding to this question. As such, it may be useful to consider liaising with the relevant IT experts.	Codec (i.e., manufacturer, model, transmission speed, bandwidth): H.323 or SIP standards Video and audio standards (e.g. Standard Definition, High Definition, etc.): Web client & skype client Type of network (e.g., ISDN, IP, etc.): IP Type of encryption for signals in secure transmissions: TLS, MTLS, SRTP, HTTPS Split screen capability: yes Document cameras: yes Multipoint connections: yes Additional specifications or capabilities: N/A Protocols or other practices: N/A Comments:
c) Can evidence be taken via commercial providers (e.g., Skype TM)?	✓ Yes. Please specify: Skype☐ No. Comments:
d) Does Your State have a procedure for testing connections and the quality of transmissions before the hearing?	 ✓ Yes. Please specify: The connections are tested in advance by the I.T. staff. ✓ No. Comments:
e) Does Your State have any requirements as to the hearing room, e.g., should be located in a court, should have a camera view of the whole room or a view of all the parties, etc.?	Yes. Please specify: It is important that the image quality is good enough for the judge to clearly see the witness. No.

	Comments:

PART IV: USE OF VIDEO-LINKS UNDER BOTH CHAPTERS – LEGAL CONSIDERATIONS

Restrictions	
a) Must a court order directing the use of video- links first be obtained from the requesting State (Chapter I) / State of Origin (Chapter II)?	☐ Yes. Please specify: ☑ No. Comments:
b) Are there any restrictions on what type/s of evidence can be taken by video-link or how it is to be taken?	☐ Yes. Please specify: No.
	Comments:
c) Are there any specific restrictions on how evidence gathered via video-link can be handled and distributed, or do the usual rules for evidence obtained in person apply?	☐ Yes, there are specific restrictions.Please specify:☒ No, the normal rules for evidence apply.
	Comments:
d) Are there any restrictions on the type of person who may be examined by video-link?	☐ Yes. Please specify: No. Comments:
	Commences.
e) Is it necessary to seek the consent of the parties to use video-link to take evidence?	Yes. Please specify the conditions under which parties may refuse the use of video-link:
	⊠ No.
	Comments:
f) Are there any restrictions on the location where the person should be examined (e.g. in a courtroom, on the premises of an Embassy or diplomatic mission)?	✓ Yes.Please specify:☐ No.
	Comments:
	Yes, at the Israeli judge's discretion.

PART IV - LEGAL CONSIDERATIONS (BOTH CHAPTERS)

g) Can a witness / expert be compelled to use video-links to give evidence?	Yes. If so, please specify what coercive measures may be used: Fines, detention/imprisonment, habeas corpus. No. Please explain:
	Comments:
h) Please briefly outline the procedure/s, under Chapter I and Chapter II, for actually notifying or summoning the witness / expert to give evidence by video-link, including any references to relevant laws, regulations or practice.	Chapter I: The witness recieves an invitation from the court Secretariat, in accordance with Civil Procedure Eegulations (1984) 474 and 475.
practice.	Chapter II: N/A, see answer in part 1(d) above.
Please also include, where applicable, the differences between notifying or summoning a willing witness / expert and notifying or summoning a witness / expert that is to be compelled.	Comments:
i) The law of which State governs the use of privileges?	Chapter I: The law of the Requesting State.
Please tick all that apply.	The law of the Requested State.
See Articles 11 and 21(e) of the Convention	The law of another State. Please specify:
	Chapter II: The law of the State of Origin. The law of the State of Execution. The law of another State. Please specify: N/A, see answer in part 1(d) above.
	Comments: This issue is not regulated by Israeli law, but we would assume that the requesting state's laws will be applied by the court.

PART V: USE OF VIDEO-LINKS UNDER $\underline{\text{CHAPTER I}}$ (LETTERS OF REQUEST) – LEGAL CONSIDERATIONS

Legal obstacles	
a) Does Your State consider that there are legal obstacles to using video-link to assist in the taking of evidence under Chapter I of the Convention? The Special Commission has noted that the use of video-link and similar technologies is consistent with the current framework of the Convention (see C&R No 55 of the 2009 SC and C&R No 20 of the 2014 SC).	☐ Yes. Please specify: ☑ No. Comments:
Direct and indirect taking of evidence	
b) Under Chapter I of the Convention, does Your State allow for the direct taking of evidence by judicial personnel of the <i>requesting</i> State (<i>i.e.</i> , the State in which the proceedings are pending)?	
c) Under which provisions of Chapter I of the Convention is indirect taking of evidence by video-link possible in Your State?	 ✓ Art. 9(1) – The judicial authority of the requested State obtains evidence (e.g., a witness / expert examination) which is located in a (distant) location within its own State. ✓ Art. 9(2) - As a special method or procedure. Please also outline whether any specific conditions must be satisfied: The Israeli judge has discretion relating to this matter. See also questions on presence. Comments:
Legal safeguards for witness / expert	
d) What are the legal safeguards in place for witnesses / experts in YOUR STATE when evidence is taken by video-link under Chapter I (e.g. protective measures for the witness / expert, provision of interpretation, right to legal counsel, etc.)?	The matter is not regulated by law. So far there has not been a need for any such safeguards.
Presence	
e) Are the rules for the presence of the parties and their representatives when physically in a single location the same for when evidence is taken via video-link? See Article 7 of the Convention	Yes. If so, please specify if they are allowed to actively participate: The participation of the parties and their representatives depends on their request and the discretion of the Israeli judge. No.

PART V - LEGAL CONSIDERATIONS (CHAPTER I)

Comments:
The Israeli judge has discretion on this issue.
Yes. If so, please specify if they are allowed to actively participate:
Yes.
□ No.
Comments:

PART VI: USE OF VIDEO-LINKS UNDER <u>CHAPTER II</u> (BY DIPLOMATIC OFFICERS, CONSULAR AGENTS AND COMMISSIONERS) – LEGAL CONSIDERATIONS

The questions in this Part are only for States that have not wholly excluded the application of Chapter II	
	reservation in whole or in part under Article 33. under this Chapter in the status table, available on osite.
Legal obstacles and legal framework	
a) Does Your State consider there to be any legal obstacles to the taking of evidence by video-link under Chapter II of the Convention?	☐ Yes. Please specify: ☑ No.
The Special Commission has noted that the use of video-link and similar technologies is consistent with the current framework of the Convention (C&R No 55 of the 2009 SC and C&R No 20 of the 2014 SC).	Comments: In Israel, the judicial and administrative authorities of the state of Israel are not generally involved in the taking of evidence under chapter II, and there is no centralized body that oversees the operation of chapter II. Outside Israel, there is no practice or regulation of taking of evidence by Israeli diplomatic or consular officers.
b) Under which provisions of Chapter II of the Convention is taking of evidence by video-link possible in Your State?	☑ Art. 15☑ Art. 16☑ Art. 17 Comments:
c) Is prior permission from Your State required when taking evidence under Chapter II of the Convention on the territory of Your State?	Yes. Please outline the procedure for seeking such permission, including any specific conditions that must be satisfied: Permission is required only under Articles 16 & 17. No. Comments:
d) Please indicate who administers the oath or affirmation and how perjury and contempt are dealt with when evidence is taken under Chapter II of the Convention on the territory of Your State.	Administration of the oath or affirmation: N/A, see answer in section a above. Dealing with perjury and contempt: N/A, see answer in section a above.
Direct and indirect taking of evidence	
e) Diplomatic and consular agents are usually located in the State where the witness / expert resides. It may be, however, that a witness / expert is located in a	☐ Yes. Please specify: ☐ No.

PART VI - LEGAL CONSIDERATIONS (CHAPTER II)

neighbouring country or in a place distant from the Embassy or Consulate. In these circumstances, does Your State consider it possible to use video-link to obtain evidence under Chapter II of the Convention?

Comments:

N/A, see answer in section a above.

PART VI - LEGAL CONSIDERATIONS (CHAPTER II)

Le	gal safeguards for witness / expert	
f)	What are the legal safeguards in place for witnesses / experts in YOUR STATE when evidence is taken by video-link under Chapter II (e.g. protective measures for the witness / expert, provision of interpretation, right to legal counsel, etc.)?	N/A, see answer in section a above.
Pr	esence	
g)	Under the law of YOUR STATE, who may be present via video-link when evidence is taken by diplomatic and consular agents ? Please tick all that apply.	☐ The parties. ☐ The parties' representatives. ☐ Judicial personnel. ☐ Someone else. Please specify:
		Comments:
		N/A, see answer in section a above.
h)	Under the law of Your STATE, who may be present via video-link when evidence is taken by commissioners ? Please tick all that apply.	 ☐ The parties. ☐ The parties' representatives. ☐ Judicial personnel. ☐ Someone else. Please specify:
		Comments:
		Comments: N/A, see answer in section a above.
Ap	oplicable law	
•	The law of which State governs the administration of an oath or affirmation when evidence is taken by video-link under Chapter II?	
•	The law of which State governs the administration of an oath or affirmation when evidence is taken by video-link under	N/A, see answer in section a above. The law of the State of Origin The law of the State of Execution It depends on whether evidence is taken by a consular or diplomatic agent or a commissioner.
•	The law of which State governs the administration of an oath or affirmation when evidence is taken by video-link under	N/A, see answer in section a above. The law of the State of Origin The law of the State of Execution It depends on whether evidence is taken by a consular or diplomatic agent or a commissioner. Please specify:
i)	The law of which State governs the administration of an oath or affirmation when evidence is taken by video-link under	N/A, see answer in section a above. The law of the State of Origin The law of the State of Execution It depends on whether evidence is taken by a consular or diplomatic agent or a commissioner. Please specify: Comments:
i)	The law of which State governs the administration of an oath or affirmation when evidence is taken by video-link under Chapter II? The law of which State governs perjury and contempt when evidence is taken by video-	N/A, see answer in section a above. The law of the State of Origin The law of the State of Execution It depends on whether evidence is taken by a consular or diplomatic agent or a commissioner. Please specify: Comments: N/A, see answer in section a above. The law of the State of Origin The law of the State of Execution It depends on whether evidence is taken by a consular or diplomatic agent or a commissioner.

PART VII PRACTICAL CONSIDERATIONS

COMMON TO BOTH CHAPTERS	
Notice	
a) What does YOUR STATE consider to be the minimum amount of time required between the request and the actual hearing in order to make the arrangements to take evidence by video-link?	Chapter I: Within Weeks. Chapter II: N/A, see answer in part 6(a) above.
Interpretation services	
b) Who is responsible, under Chapter I and Chapter II, for the use of interpretation services and who arranges these services in YOUR STATE when video-link is used?	Chapter I: The requested court and the Administration of Courts. Chapter II: N/A, see answer in part 6(a) above.
c) Are professional accredited interpreters required in YOUR STATE, and where can relevant contact details be found?	 ☐ Yes. Please specify: ☑ No. Comments: Interpreters that have been selected through a tender may be available if the Israeli Judge sees fit.
d) Under the law of YOUR STATE, is interpretation to be <i>simultaneous</i> or <i>consecutive</i> when a witness / expert is examined via video-link?	consecutive.
e) Where may the interpreter be located when a witness / expert is examined via video-link? Please check all that apply.	 ☑ In the room with the witness / expert. ☑ In the room with those conducting the examination. ☐ Elsewhere in the requesting State (Chapter I) / State of Origin (Chapter II). ☐ Elsewhere in the requested State (Chapter I) / State of Execution (Chapter II). ☐ In a third State. ☐ Other. Please specify: Comments:
Reporting and recording	
f) Is a written report of the video-link hearing or testimony prepared?	Yes. Please specify by whom: The Israeli judge. Please also outline the specific rules or regulations, if any, that are applicable to the handling/storage/distribution of the report: Article 68a(a) of the Courts Law-1984 No.

PART VII - PRACTICAL CONSIDERATIONS (BOTH CHAPTERS)

	Comments:
g) Are facilities and equipment made available in order to record the hearing or testimony?	 Yes, with audio and video. Yes, only with video. Yes, only with audio. No, but the recording of hearings/testimonies is permitted. If a recording is produced, please also outline the specific rules or regulations, if any, that are applicable to the handling/storage/distribution of the recording: No, because the recording of hearings/testimonies is not permitted under internal law. Comments: The recording of hearings/ testimonies may be permitted by the judge according to Article 68b of the Law of courts. However, in practice this is very rare.
Documents and exhibits	
h) What arrangements are to be made for showing or referring to documents or exhibits when taking evidence by video-link?	Documents must be sent via e-mail.

PRACTICAL CONSIDERATIONS UNDER CHAPTER I	
Practical obstacles	
i) Does Your State consider that there are practical obstacles to using video-link to assist in the taking of evidence under Chapter I of the Convention?	☐ Yes. Please specify: ☑ No. Comments:
Identification of all relevant actors	
j) What is the procedure for verifying the identity of the parties, the witness / expert, and all relevant actors in Your State when video-link is used under Chapter I?	The witness/expert must present an identification document.
Standard Forms	
 k) Do the authorities of Your State use a standardised request form under Chapter I that makes specific reference to the use of video-links? The use of the Model Form of the Evidence Convention is recommended when taking evidence under Chapter I. While the Model Form has no explicit reference to the use of video-link, a request to this effect may be included in item 13 of the Form. I) Does Your State require the inclusion of any particular practical or technical information from the requesting State in the request in order to conduct / arrange a witness / expert examination by video-link under Chapter I? (e.g. contact details for IT support, technical specifications, etc) 	 Yes. Please specify: The standardised form used makes no reference to video-link. No standardised form is used. Comments: Yes.
Costs	
m) Are there any costs associated with the taking of evidence via video-link under Chapter I in YOUR STATE?	Yes. Please provide an approximate estimate of these costs and / or specify the criteria used to determine these costs: The cost of the telecommunication services used. No. Comments:

PART VII - PRACTICAL CONSIDERATIONS (CHAPTER I)

n) Who is responsible for bearing the costs occasioned by the use of video-link under Chapter I in Your State? See Art. 14(2) of the Evidence Convention	 □ The moving party (requesting the use of video-link). □ The requesting authority (in the requesting State). □ The requested authority (in the requested State). □ Other. Please specify: So far, as a gesture of goodwill, Israel has borne the costs occasioned by the use of video link.
	Comments:
o) How are these costs generally expected to be paid and/or reimbursed?	☐ Payment in cash ☐ Payment by (credit) card ☐ Electronic/wire transfer ☑ Other. Please specify: So far, Israel has not sought reimbursment. Comments:
p) Who pays for the interpretation services under Chapter I in Your STATE when video-link is used and how are these costs to be paid and/or reimbursed?	Up to this date the costs have been payed by the Administration of Courts.

PRACTICAL CONSIDERATIONS UNDER CHAPTER II		
Only for States that have not excluded in whole the application of Chapter II		
Practical obstacles		
q) Does Your State consider that there are practical obstacles to using video-link to assist in the taking of evidence under Chapter II of the Convention?	☐ Yes. Please specify: ☐ No.	
	Comments:	
	In Israel, the judicial and administrative authorities of the state of Israel are not generally involved in the taking of evidence under chapter II, and there is no centralized body that oversees the operation of chapter II. Outside Israel, there is no practice or regulation of taking of evidence by Israeli diplomatic	
	or consular officers.	
Identification of all relevant actors	,	
r) What is the procedure for verifying the identity of the parties, the witness / expert, and all relevant actors in Your State when video-link is used under Chapter II?	N/A, see answer in section q above.	
Standard Forms	,	
s) Do the authorities of Your State use a standardised request form under Chapter II that makes specific reference to the use of video-links?	☐ Yes.Please specify:☐ The standardised form used makes no reference to video-link.	
Although the use of the <u>Model Form</u> of the Evidence Convention is recommended when taking evidence under Chapter I, it may also be used, with the necessary amendments when applying for permission to take evidence under Chapter II.	☐ No standardised form is used. Comments:	
While the Model Form has no explicit reference to the use of video-link, a request to this effect may be included in item 13 of the Form.	N/A, see answer in section q above.	
Assistance and facilities		
t) Are the Embassies and Consulates of Your State (acting as the State of Execution) able to assist applicants in arranging a video-link?	 Yes. Please specify how, e.g., via a booking system: No. Please specify who else would assist, if anyone: 	
	Comments:	
u) Is it possible to hold a video-link session requested under the Convention at the premises of the Embassies or Consulates of YOUR STATE abroad?	☐ Yes. Please specify: ☑ No. Comments:	
	Comments.	

PART VII - PRACTICAL CONSIDERATIONS (CHAPTER II)

v) Does Your State require the inclusion of any particular practical or technical information from the State of Origin in the request in order to conduct / arrange a witness or expert examination by video-link under Chapter II? (e.g. the use of interpreters, stenographers, or recording devices)	☐ Yes. Please specify: ☐ No. Comments: N/A, see answer in section q above.
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PART VII - PRACTICAL CONSIDERATIONS (CHAPTER II)

Costs	
w) Are there any costs associated with the taking of evidence via video-link under Chapter II in YOUR STATE?	Yes. Please provide an approximate estimate of these costs and / or specify the criteria used to determine these costs:
	□ No.
	Comments:
	N/A, see answer in section q above.
x) Who is responsible for bearing the costs occasioned by the use of video-link under Chapter II in Your State?	☐ The moving party (requesting the use of video-link). ☐ The State of Origin ☐ The Diplomatic mission or Consulate in the State of Execution. ☐ The commissioner ☐ Other. ☐ Please specify: Comments:
	N/A, see answer in section q above.
y) How are these costs generally expected to be paid and/or reimbursed?	☐ Payment in cash ☐ Payment by (credit) card ☐ Electronic/wire transfer ☐ Other. ☐ Please specify: Comments: N/A, see answer in section q above.
z) Who pays for the interpretation services under Chapter II in YOUR STATE when videolink is used and how are these costs to be paid and/or reimbursed?	N/A, see answer in section q above.