EXPLANATION OF VOTE on draft resolution A/C.1/57/L.36 entitled "Implementation of the Convention on the Prohibition of the Use, Stockpiling, Production and Transfer of Anti-personnel Mines and on Their Destruction" (item 66-p)

Mr. Chairman,

I have asked for the floor to explain our position with regard to the resolution on "Implementation of the Convention on the Prohibition of the Use, Stockpiling, production and Transfer of Anti-personnel Mines and on Their Destruction".

Pakistan's position on the question of anti-personnel Landmines is determined by legitimate security concerns. Given our security compulsions and the need to guard our long borders not protected by any natural obstacle, the use of landmines forms a natural part of our self-defence strategy. As such, it is not possible for Pakistan to agree to the demands for the complete prohibition of anti-personnel Landmines till such time that viable alternatives are available.

We also believe that it is the irresponsible use of landmines that has caused so much destruction and misery. We remain committed to ensuring the highest standards of responsibility in the use of these defensive weapons.

Pakistan is a Party to the Amended Protocol II of the Certain Conventional Weapons Convention (CCW) that regulates the use of landmines, in both internal and external conflicts, to prevent civilians from falling victim to landmines. We are continuing to implement the Protocol with the greatest earnestness.

It is also our conviction that truly universal norms and standards can and should be set within the framework of the United Nations incorporating humanitarian and security requirements.