The Islamic Republic of Iran has always expressed that it shares the sentiments of the States parties to the “Ottawa Convention” for sponsoring draft resolution which is now contained in document L.43 and its submission for consideration and action by the General Assembly.

Landmines have been used irresponsibly by the military and armed groups during the civil wars in certain regions of the world and consequently have claimed a great number of innocent lives particularly among the women and children. This situation is not acceptable and we welcome every effort to stop this trend.

Landmines Convention however is not a conclusive and comprehensive response to this tragedy. A real campaign to combat the irresponsible uses of land mines need to be far reaching and should involve different and multifaceted related aspects of the issue. This convention could be more effective, if concerns of land-territorial countries with long land borders had been taken into consideration.

Therefore, the Convention, due to this reality, has not been received with enthusiasm in certain regions. Landmines continue to be the sole effective means to ensure the minimum security requirement of borders in countries with long land borders. The difficulty to monitor sensitive long areas by established and permanent guarding posts or effective warning systems would leave no option for these countries other than resorting to landmines. These mines however are used under strict established rules and regulations to protect the civilians.

Mr. Chairman, the Landmines process is an evolving one and complementary efforts need to be pursued. More efforts are necessary to explore new alternatives to landmines and to extend international cooperation in this field. In the meantime observance and strengthening the standards to limit the use of landmines may be encouraged.

Moreover international efforts are also necessary to be made to speed up the mine clearance activities within the UN system.

My delegation while appreciating the essence and objectives of the draft resolution, due to its particular concerns and considerations, could not support the resolution and therefore cast an abstention vote.