Statement by Mr. Alon Bar – Israeli Delegation
in Explanation of Vote

Regarding Draft Resolution L.45
Transparency in Armament

First Committee
28 October 2003

Mr. Chairman,

As in previous years, we have, again, being forced to listen, in the context of a discussion on the UN Register, to a long list of baseless allegations against Israel’s security policy and its alleged capabilities.

These accusations have nothing to do, of course, with the Register.

Most of the countries that criticize Israel are unwilling to subject their own arms transfers to any transparency measure.

The one important advantage of the Register is its modesty. It does not pretend to be a solution for all conflicts or for the security challenges many of us face. It is a CBM that can be used as a basis for continuation or extension, primarily in a regional context. This is the reason for Israel’s participation in the Register.

But for some of the previous speakers, gradual building of confidence seems to be a reason for concern. They are especially unhappy about Israel’s determination to maintain its ability to defend itself.

Mr. Chairman,

Israel’s self-defense policy is not a source of concern to global peace. There are other, real sources of concern in the ME. It should also not be a source of concern for countries in our region, which do not have aggressive intentions against my country.

If countries that do have such intentions are concerned by Israel’s ability to defend itself, it should be seen as a contribution to regional stability.

Mr. Chairman,

Moving from today’s environment of heightened tensions to a safer ME requires the willingness to seek peace and reconciliation as well as agreements on mutual CBMs. Participating in the Register is an important step in the right direction and we call upon our neighbors to adopt this measure.
As in other regions, only when regional transparency measures can be agreed upon between ME countries will it be possible to improve and develop the global Register in a substantial manner. At the same time, we view the changes introduced in the Secretary General’s Report as an important contribution to the relevancy of the Register, especially the inclusion of MANPADs as a result of terrorist attempts to use them against civilian aircrafts.

Mr. Chairman,

In addition to our support, and in order to alleviate the concerns of my Syrian colleague, we would like to inform the Chairman and the Secretariat that Israel would like to add its name to list of co-sponsors of this resolution.