Thank you Mr. Chairman,

I've taken the floor to explain the position of my delegation with respect to the draft resolutions L.3 on the Nuclear Weapons Free Zone in Middle East and the draft resolution L.6 on the risk of nuclear proliferation in the Middle East.

The idea of the establishment of a nuclear-weapon-free zone as an important disarmament and confidence-building measure in the region of the Middle East, first initiated by Iran in 1974, followed by the adoption of the numerous resolutions by the General Assembly. Since 1980, the General Assembly has annually adopted, by consensus, a resolution on this issue. The repeated adoption of this resolution by the General Assembly is a manifestation of global support for the promotion of peace, security and stability in the Middle East through the establishment of a nuclear-weapon-free zone in the region.

But unfortunately due to non-adherence of Israel to the NPT, and, more importantly the refusal of that regime to place its unsafeguarded nuclear facilities under the IAEA verification system, the realization of such a zone, a lofty and long-sought aspiration of the countries in the region, has yet to materialize. The irresponsible behavior of this regime supported by certain nuclear-weapon State in this respect has put the establishment of such a zone in the region in the near future in serious doubt.

As the Final Document of the 2000 NPT Review Conference signifies, all countries in the Middle East region, except for the Israeli regime, have become States parties to the treaty. The risk of Israel's nuclear facilities make it therefore necessary for international community to exert enough pressure on Israel to accede to the NPT and place all its nuclear facilities under IAEA safeguards in order to pave the way for the long-sought goal of the establishment of a nuclear-weapon-free zone in the Middle East.

As a State party to the NPT, the Islamic Republic of Iran is fully committed to its international undertakings and believes that this
international instrument is the cornerstone of nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation. Universal adherence to this Treaty, in particular in the region of the Middle East, would effectively ensure the establishment of a nuclear-weapon-free zone in the region.

Thank you.