EXPLANATION OF VOTE
on draft resolution entitled

Madam Chairperson,

I have asked for the floor to explain our decision to abstain on the resolution titled “Implementation of the Convention on the Prohibition to the Use, Stockpiling, production and Transfer of Anti-personnel Mines and on Their Destruction,” contained in document A/C.1/61/L.47/Rev.1.

Landmines continue to play a significant role in the defence needs of many states especially those in regions of conflicts and disputes. Pakistan remains committed to pursue the objectives of a universal and non-discriminatory ban on anti-personnel mines in a manner, which takes into account the legitimate defence requirements of States.

Given our security compulsions and the need to guard our long borders, not protected by any natural obstacle, the use of landmines forms an important 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. The objective of total elimination of anti-personnel mines can best be promoted by inter alia, making available non-lethal, militarily and cost-effective alternate technologies.

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 continue to implement the Protocol with the greatest earnestness. With the adoption of Protocol V on ERW, efforts are under way for its ratification.

Pakistan, as one of the largest troop contributor to UN-led peacekeeping operations, has actively contributed to the de-mining operations in several affected countries in the past. We are prepared to provide training facilities to the mine-affected countries.
Pakistan enjoys a unique record of clearing all minefields after the three wars in South Asia. There has never been a humanitarian situation caused by the use of these mines. We remain committed to ensuring that mines in our military inventory will never become a cause for civilian casualties in Pakistan or elsewhere in the world.

Thank you, Madam Chairperson.