SINGAPORE’S EXPLANATION OF VOTE ON RESOLUTION L.47 ON THE “IMPLEMENTATION OF THE CONVENTION ON THE PROHIBITION OF THE USE, STOCKPILING, PRODUCTION AND TRANSFER OF ANTI-PERSONNEL MINES AND THEIR DESTRUCTION”

Thank you Madam Chair.

1. I am taking the floor to explain my delegation’s vote in favour of the draft resolution L.47/Rev.1, entitled “Implementation of the Convention on the Prohibition of the Use, Stockpiling, Production and Transfer of Anti-personnel Mines and Their Destruction”.

2. Singapore’s position on anti-personnel landmines has been clear and open. Singapore supports and will continue to support all initiatives against indiscriminate use of anti-personnel landmines, especially when they are directed at innocent and defenceless civilians. With this in mind, Singapore declared a two-year moratorium in May 1996 on the export of anti-personnel landmines without self-neutralising mechanisms. In February 1998, Singapore expanded the moratorium to include all manners of anti-personnel landmines, not just those without self-neutralising mechanisms, and extended the moratorium indefinitely.

3. At the same time, like several other countries, Singapore firmly states that the legitimate security concerns and the right to self-defence of any state cannot be disregarded. A blanket ban on all types of anti-personnel landmines might therefore be counter-productive.
Madam Chair,

4. Singapore supports international efforts to resolve the humanitarian concerns over anti-personnel landmines. We will continue to work with members of the international community towards finding a durable and truly global solution.

Thank you.