The Islamic Republic of Iran's Statement  
in the Thematic Discussion on Conventional Weapons  
at the 64th UNGA First Committee  
New York, 20 October 2009  

Mr. Chairman,  
My delegation associates itself with the statement made by  
Indonesia on behalf of the Non-Aligned Movement on this topic today.  
On conventional weapons, my delegation shares the view of Non-  
Aligned Movement that it is the sovereign and inherent right of States to  
acquire, manufacture, export, import and retain conventional arms for  
their self-defense and security needs in accordance with Article 51 of the  
UN Charter. Any arrangement for regulation of conventional armament  
should be in conformity with the purposes and principles of the Charter of  
the United Nations and based on a non-discriminatory and comprehensive  
manner.  
Having the bitter experience of eight years of imposed war during  
which Iranians in defenseless cities even in the capital being under  
constant missile attacks, Iran was obliged for its self-defense to develop  
its indigenous missile technology. Restrictions imposed on us and  
generosity of certain powers to provide all kinds of missiles to Saddam’s  
army have taught a valuable lesson to Iranians that they should stand on  
their foot for defending the country. In the meantime, my country fully  
supports any comprehensive and non-discriminatory approach towards  
addressing the issue of missiles in all its aspects. In this context, as you  
are aware a resolution was jointly proposed by Egypt, Indonesia and Iran  
which has continuously been supported by Member States. Given the lack  
of any internationally agreed norms or arrangement, the Islamic Republic  
of Iran believes that the only way to deal with the issue of missiles in all  
its aspects is to pursuing it within the framework of the United Nations.  
Discriminatory approach outside of the UN has already failed and it will  
not contribute to addressing comprehensively this important issue.  
In this context, I should recall that the NAM Heads of State and  
Government emphasized "the need to keep the issue of missiles in all its  
aspects on the agenda of the UN General Assembly". They also  
welcomed that the Panel of Governmental Experts established in  
accordance with Resolution 59/67 successfully concluded its work in  
2008 and submitted its report to the 63rd session of the UN General  
Assembly. They stressed the importance of the security concerns of all  
States at regional and global levels in any approach to the issue of  
missiles in all its aspects.
Most of these exported arms involving offensive sophisticated weapons to the Zionist regime is intended to give confidence to the war machine of the said regime to pursue its expansionist, aggressive and destabilizing policies in the region. Given the well-documented UN reports on various war crimes by military officers and high official of Zionist regime, the main suppliers of arms which their names are registered in the UN report, must immediately stop exporting weapons to this regime and refrain from further feeding its dangerous war machine.

Mr. Chairman,

In conclusion, I would like to state that at the national level, my country has responsibly enforced and continues to implement effective measures to prevent and curb the illicit trafficking and transfer of such weapons while emphasizes on the inherent rights of States for national production or legal export and transfer of such weapons under strict national law and regulations. In order to deal with the problem of illegal transfer of arms and to discuss possible solutions in this regard, the Islamic Republic of Iran is ready to discuss and exchange views with other Members States within the framework of United Nations.

I thank you Mr. Chairman