Mr. Chairman,

One should expect that UN resolutions would be relevant and address current realities. Document L.3 entitled “The Risk of Nuclear Proliferation in the Middle East” doesn't meet this criterion and has little connection with the reality in the Middle East.

There is no doubt that a risk of nuclear proliferation in the Middle East indeed exists. Yet, none of the proliferation risks in recent years in the Middle East have involved Israel, but all of them have challenged our security. Three out of four widely acknowledged cases of NPT non-compliance have taken place in the Middle East, while other cases like Syria are currently under investigation. These cases demonstrate the cynical attitude of certain States in the region with respect to their international obligations in the nuclear domain.
Our region also suffers from the irresponsible proliferation behavior of some states outside the region who continue to export ballistic missiles and WMD-related technology to countries in the region.

Mr. Chairman,

Israel expects that under the title of the risk of nuclear proliferation in the Middle East, the international community would at a minimum call for compliance by all States of the region with their relevant international non-proliferation obligations.

This is particularly true concerning Iran's ongoing clandestine nuclear activities, its total disregard of IAEA and UNSC resolutions and its hostile policies and statements as demonstrated by the Iranian President calling for Israel’s destruction. This resolution chooses to ignore relevant IAEA and UNSC resolutions as well as the evidence contained in IAEA reports regarding such gross violations.

Needless to say, this resolution focuses entirely on Israel and singles it out, as was the case with one Arab sponsored resolution at the IAEA General Conference, which was rejected by a majority vote.

Mr. Chairman,
Adopting such an ill motivated and unbalanced resolution will not serve the greater objective of curbing proliferation in the Middle East, nor will it contribute to the overall objective of advancing peace and security in the Middle East. We expect that in the future, should a resolution like that be tabled, that the distinguished delegates will vote against it. In doing so, they will distance themselves from attempts aimed at deviating the focus from addressing the real risks of nuclear proliferation in the Middle East and thus deteriorate the credibility of this UN body.

Finally, the fact that the sponsors of this resolution chose to include language referring to the 2012 conference in this divisive and anti-Israel resolution, clearly indicates the true intentions of the Arab states with regard to this proposed conference and the negative spirit which they will attach to it.

Thank you Mr. Chairman.