I am taking the floor to explain Egypt’s vote on L. 45. Egypt abstained on L.45 entitled “The HCOC against Ballistic Missiles Proliferation” as it believes that this instrument was a product of exclusive export control regimes, developed outside the United Nations in a discriminatory manner. Egypt strongly believes that in addition to its voluntary, non-verifiable nature, the Hague Code of Conduct is neither balanced in its approach nor comprehensive in its scope. Through focusing on the issue of ballistic missiles and ignoring at the same time other more advanced means of delivery of weapons of mass destruction, such as cruise missiles and others, the code only adds to its weakness in effectively promoting the peaceful use of space technologies. The Code has failed significantly, since its adoption, to develop in a manner which may address the mentioned weaknesses and shortcomings.

Within our firm belief that any consideration of the issue of missiles can only take place in the context of the United Nations, in order to enjoy both legitimacy and effectiveness, Egypt has cosponsored this year the draft resolution represented in L. 18 entitled “Missiles” aimed at keeping the issue on the Agenda of the United Nations and reflecting our support to addressing this issue, in an inclusive and comprehensive manner, in the multilateral context of the United Nations.