Statement of the Delegation of the Islamic Republic of Iran
At the Thematic Discussion on Conventional Weapons
At the 65th UNGA First Committee

October 2010

In the Name of God

The Compassionate, the Merciful

Mr. Chairman,

The Islamic Republic of Iran attaches great importance to the consideration of the issue of conventional weapons within the United Nations.

The Islamic Republic of Iran, being aware of the consequences and effects of illicit trade in arms, mostly small arms upon innocent people, principally welcomes all attempts leading to preventing and eradicating illicit arms trade.

Iran is of the view that such a lofty goal, aimed at the realization of international and regional peace and security, could be attained only through serious international cooperation. Moreover, Iran believes that any arrangement for regulation of conventional armaments should be based on a non-discriminatory and comprehensive manner and through multilateral negotiations.

At the same time, we reaffirm 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 Charter of the United Nations.

We share the concern expressed by the Heads of State or Government of the countries of the Non-Aligned Movement at the Sharm el Sheikh Summit about “unilateral coercive measures” and their emphasis that “no undue restriction should be placed on the transfer” of conventional arms for self-defence and security needs.
Mr. Chairman,

The Islamic Republic of Iran believes that the legitimate and legal conventional arms trade among Member States is not the major problem which some countries emphasizing to be dealt with at this stage. As reported by the United Nations Register of Conventional Arms system, most of the conventional arms transfers are covered by the Register and are transparent.

It is evident that illegal transfer of aircraft, warships, missiles and tanks cannot take place as easily as illicit trade in small arms and light weapons. Therefore, there is no merit in trying to cover transfers all seven categories and we believe that negotiations on such transfer and subsequent implementation of a possible treaty is a waste of time and resources and would only add to the burden of developing countries.

Furthermore, according to valid international surveys, it is estimated that around 90 per cent of the direct deaths in violent conflicts are caused by small arms. It goes without saying that tremendous effort has already been made by the international community in concluding the United Nations Programme of Action to Prevent, Combat and Eradicate the Illicit Trade in Small Arms and Light Weapons in All Its Aspects, which was adopted by consensus by the United Nations Conference.

Moreover, the International Instrument to Enable States to Identify and Trace, in a Timely and Reliable Manner, Illicit Small Arms and Light Weapons was painstakingly negotiated by all Member States and adopted by the General Assembly within the framework of the Programme of Action. All of these efforts which represent a multilateral progressive approach should not be abandoned and overlooked.

Duplication, Mr. Chairman, has also had no value added. The Islamic Republic of Iran is of the view that since the major exporters of weapons have not fully complied with their existing obligations under the relevant agreements on conventional arms, the conditions are not ripe for negotiating a comprehensive global instrument on all kinds of arms transfer.

A recent flow of sophisticated weapons to the volatile regions such as the Middle East has had negative implications on the region’s stability. The unabated production of arms by major producers at a very large scale aimed at exporting most of them to other countries is a matter of serious concern. In this context, the ruthless and irresponsible export of arms to the Middle East region represents a clear example in this regard.
Exporting billions of dollars of arms and military assistance to certain Middle East countries is a cause of grave concern for many peace-loving countries across the international community.

Most of these exported arms involving offensive sophisticated weapons to the Zionist regime are 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 committed by military officers and high officials of Zionist regime, the main suppliers of arms which their names are registered in the UN report, are accomplices of these war crimes and must immediately stop exporting weapons to this regime and refrain from further feeding its dangerous war machine.

Mr. Chairman,

On the issue of “Missiles”, 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. Needless to say that, Iran was the last country in the region resorted to missile technology for its self-defense.

In the meantime, my country fully supports any comprehensive and non-discriminatory approach towards addressing the issue of missiles in all its aspects.

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 the UN will not contribute to addressing comprehensively this important issue.

While I have the floor, Mr. Chairman, let me introduce the draft decision on “Missiles”.

In this context, as you are aware a resolution has jointly proposed by Egypt, Indonesia and the Islamic Republic of Iran in 1999 which has continuously been supported by Member States. I should also recall that the NAM Heads of State and Government “expressed their support for
efforts to be continued within the UN to explore further the issue of missiles in all its aspects.

Pursuant to the General Assembly resolutions 55/33, 58/37 and 61/59 the first, second and third Panels of Governmental Experts were consecutively established in 2001-2002, 2004 and 2007-2008, to assist the Secretary-General in the preparation of reports on the issue of missiles in all its aspects.

The Third Panel of Governmental Experts, in 2007 and 2008, after having a comprehensive, in-depth exchange of views on all aspects of the issue of missiles, agreed on the final report by consensus. Subsequently, the General Assembly welcomed the report and requested the Secretary-General to seek the views of Member States on the report.

Several Member States, including my own country have already replied to the letter of the Secretary General. However, there was not enough time for the sponsors to analyze the views and consult with the interested Member States and the Secretariat on the next step to be taken. Therefore, the sponsors of the resolution on “Missiles” have decided to submit only a draft decision this year contained in document A/C.1/65/L.18.

This draft decision is only a procedural one and we are certain that those who are in support of keeping the issue of missile within the framework of the UN will vote in favor of the draft as they did in previous years.

Since I have the floor, allow me to say a few words regarding the so-called Breaking News announced Yesterday by the British Delegation. As a preliminary reaction to that, it is regrettable that the mentality of the cold war is still dominant in that document by keeping the obsolete doctrine of deterrence. Additionally, with regard to the issue of the Middle East region, this document is deadly silent towards more than 200 nuclear warheads of the Zionist Regime, threatening the peace and security of the region and beyond.

Thank you Mr. Chairman,