2011 EXPLANATION OF VOTE FOR RESOLUTION ON THE RISK OF PROLIFERATION IN THE MIDDLE EAST

Mr. Chairman,

Canada takes the floor to explain its vote on the resolution entitled, “Risk of nuclear proliferation in the Middle East”, due to the fact that, once again this year the resolution unfairly singles out Israel by calling for its accession to the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty while failing to address serious non-compliance issues by States in the region already party to the Treaty.

Canada has taken this position both here and in similar resolutions in other fora, including the IAEA. Canada has consistently called for universal adherence to the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty.

Canada finds this resolution to be deficient because it ignores reality – and that is Iran’s and Syria’s non-cooperation with the IAEA. We regret, for example, that Iran has failed to comply with UN Security Council Resolutions 1929, 1835, 1803, 1747, 1737 and 1696. Iran has chosen to ignore these Security Council obligations and the efforts of the international community to arrive at an equitable and lasting solution which would meet the concerns of the international community with regard to Iran’s intentions.

In the case of Syria, it has had ample opportunity to cooperate effectively with the Agency in resolving this issue – but has refused to do so.

For these reasons, Canada voted against this year’s resolution on the risk of Proliferation in the Middle East.