I take the floor to explain Egypt’s abstention in the voting on draft resolution A/C.1/67/L.8.

Egypt abstained in the voting on this draft resolution, on the Convention on the Prohibition of the Use, Stockpiling, Production and Transfer of Anti-personnel Mines and on Their Destruction, due to the particularly imbalanced nature of that instrument, which was developed and concluded outside the framework of the United Nations.

Egypt imposed a moratorium on its capacity to produce and export landmines in 1980, long before the conclusion of the Ottawa Convention.

Egypt views the Convention as lacking balance between the humanitarian concerns related to the production and use of anti-personnel landmines and their legitimate military use in border protection, particularly in countries with long borders.

The Convention does not impose any legal responsibility on States to remove anti-personnel mines they have emplaced in territories of others, making it almost impossible for many States to meet their demining requirements on their own. That is particularly true in the case of Egypt, which still has millions of anti-personnel mines on its territory emplaced by the warring States during World War II.

This serious concern is further exacerbated by the weak system of international cooperation set up by the Convention, which is still limited in its effect and highly dependent on the will of donor States.

The Ottawa Convention’s weaknesses resulting from its lack of universality reflect the lack of international consensus on its provisions, due in part to its finalization outside the United Nations. That reminds us of the value of concluding arms control and disarmament agreements within the context of the United Nations, and not outside of that framework.