Republic of Iraq

Statement by H.E. Mr. Hamid Al Bayati
Permanent Representative of the Republic of Iraq to the United Nations

To the
Thematic Debate under Cluster 1
(Nuclear Weapons)

New York, 17 - 18 October, 2012
Mr. President,

My Delegation expresses its appreciation for the opportunity to deliver a statement under Cluster 1 “Nuclear Weapons” to highlight the efforts made by Iraq since 2003 in the field of prohibition of nuclear weapons and other weapons of mass destruction, which still present a serious threat to humanity. My Government has been keen on pursing a new path in dealing with the international community, a path that is based on confidence-building and transparency to contribute to the restoration of its natural international status it enjoyed before the adoption of Security Council Resolution (661) in 1990, following Saddam’s invasion of Kuwait.

Mr. President,

My Government believes in the importance of promoting the universality of the Non Proliferation Treaty (NPT), it also affirms the need to support the efforts of the international community to facilitate the entry of the Comprehensive Test Ban Treaty, which is considered major convention in the field of nuclear disarmament and non proliferation.

Mr. President,

My Government took a number of steps and national measures on the legislative and steps for non proliferation and disarmament of nuclear and other weapons of mass destruction, through joining the related conventions and implementing commitments set forth by those conventions. In this regard, we would like to point out to the approval by the Iraqi Council of Representatives on the Model Additional Protocol to the Comprehensive Safeguards System of the International Energy Agency on 28 June, 2012. Regarding the Comprehensive Test Ban Treaty and based on Iraq’s belief that this treaty is one of the main pillars of guaranteeing the achievement of International Security and non-proliferation, Iraq signed the treaty on 18 August 2008. Iraq recently participated in the High Level Ministerial Meeting held in New York to facilitate the entry of the treaty into force. The head of Iraq’s delegation H.E. Mr. Hoshyar Zebari, Minister of Foreign Affairs delivered during this meeting a statement in which he expressed Iraq’s support of the joint ministerial statement issued by the meeting, he also pointed that Iraq is close to ratifying the treaty. Today we would like to convey to you the approval of the Iraqi Council of Representatives on 9 October, 2012 to join the Comprehensive Test Ban Treaty (CTBT). By joining CTBT Iraq has fulfilled the obligations stated in Security Council Resolution (1957) in 2010. On this occasion, my government calls on the continuation of the International efforts made in this matter, and it encourages countries that have not joined the treaty yet to accelerate the entrance of the treaty into force in order to achieve the treaty’s desired goals which protects the world from the catastrophic dangers of these weapons. In the same context, my delegation welcomes Indonesia’s ratification of the treaty.

Mr. President,

I also would like to thank the Government of Kazakhstan for its efforts in organizing the International conference entitled “From Nuclear Test Ban to a Nuclear Weapons Free World” held in Astana, Kazakhstan in August 2012. My delegation also expresses its support for the initiative presented by H.E. Nursultan Nazarbayev, President of Kazakhstan during the conference.