Mr. Chairperson,

Every year we question the motivation of the authors behind the draft resolution entitled “The Risk of Nuclear Proliferation in the Middle East”, as well as the motivation of the states who vote in favor of this resolution.

We cannot help but wonder whether the distance between New York and the Middle East has not stretched unnaturally to such an extent that vision has been irreparably blurred. There is no question regarding the risk of nuclear proliferation in the Middle East. Israel continuously and consistently points to this danger. With four out of five widely acknowledged cases of gross non-compliance with NPT obligations taking place in the Middle East, while the fifth case, namely the DPRK, is heavily involved in nuclear proliferation to the Middle East, this seems to require no great cognitive powers. All these cases fundamentally challenge Israel’s security and cast a dark shadow as to the prospects of embarking on a meaningful regional security process. They also
demonstrate the cynic way in which some regional states treat their international commitments in the nuclear domain, while these and others exploit the multilateral arena and the automatic majority which exists against Israel. In this context, we wonder whether the current turmoil and transformation processes under play in the region will shed light on the full extent of the real proliferation risks in the region.

Mr. Chairperson,

Israel expected that under the title of "The Risk of Nuclear Proliferation in the Middle East", the international community would closely look at the cases of Iran and Syria. These are two regional states that are under ongoing investigation by the IAEA due to their clandestine activities in contravention of their NPT obligations. It cannot be over emphasized that these countries have been the subject of numerous resolutions of the UNSC and the IAEA BOG.

At a minimum, Israel would expect a call for compliance by all states of the region with their relevant international non-proliferation obligations. Lamentably, this resolution chooses to ignore relevant IAEA and UNSC resolutions as well as the evidence contained in IAEA reports regarding Iran's and Syria's gross violations.

Mr. Chairperson,

Adopting such an ill motivated and unbalanced resolution, which aims to single out Israel in a biased manner, will not serve the greater objective of curbing proliferation in the Middle East, nor will it contribute to the role and standing of this body in advancing peace and security in the Middle
East. Similarly, it will not be consistent with the responsible behavior we expect of regional states, as well as the international community at large, if there is a true interest in regional security.

In light of the aforesaid, we call upon the distinguished delegates not to play into the hands of those who wish to divert attention from the real problems of the Middle East and to vote against this resolution. By doing so, delegates will distance themselves from attempts aimed at hampering the efforts of the international community to effectively cope with nuclear proliferation in the region.

Thank you, Mr. Chairperson.