Explanation of Vote by the Delegation of the Islamic Republic of Iran on the draft resolution entitled “United action with renewed determination towards the total elimination of nuclear weapons” at the First Committee of the 70th Session of the GA

New York, 3 November 2015

In the Name of God, the Most Compassionate, the Most Merciful

I would like to explain the position of my delegation regarding the draft resolution L.26 entitled "United action with renewed determination towards the total elimination of nuclear weapons".

We share the main objective of the draft resolution which calls for the total elimination of nuclear weapons. However, the assertion in PP 8 that the fulfillment of nuclear disarmament obligations is conditional upon the enhancement of international peace and security is not acceptable. Full compliance with legal obligations on nuclear disarmament, under any circumstances, is essential to achieving the objective of the total elimination of nuclear weapons.

The draft has specifically addressed certain regional issues related to the East Asia region but has ignored to equally address the proliferation risk posed by the unsafeguarded nuclear facilities of the Israeli regime, as the only non-party to the NPT in the Middle East region. We believe the non-proliferation norm should be applied globally and without exception. Nuclear proliferation is as dangerous in the Middle East as it is in other parts of the world.

With regard to the work of the Conference on Disarmament, while the draft calls for the immediate commencement of negotiations on FMCT, it has remained completely silent with respect to the need for urgent commencement of negotiations on nuclear disarmament in the CD.

For these reasons, my delegation decided to abstain in voting on this draft resolution as a whole.

I thank you Mr. Chairman.