Explanation of Vote by Delegation of the Islamic Republic of Iran on draft resolution entitled "No first placement of weapons in outer space" at the First Committee of the 70th Session of the General Assembly

New York, 4 November 2015

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

At the outset, my delegation would like to express its condolences to the delegation of the Russian Federation on the tragic loss of life of their fellow citizens in the plane crash in Egypt.

Islamic Republic of Iran considers the provisions of the draft resolution entitled "No first placement of weapons in outer space" as contained in L.47, to be in line with the objective of prevention of an arms race in outer space. We commend the Russian Federation for its role and efforts in promoting this objective in the United Nations.

In article IV of the Treaty on Principles Governing the Activities of States in Exploration and Use of Outer Space, placement of any nuclear weapons or other kind of weapons of mass destruction in outer space is prohibited. We note that the draft resolution in its PP 2 underlines the importance of the existing legal regime prohibiting placement of nuclear weapons or other kind of weapons of mass destruction in outer space. We also note the fact that the resolution in its PP 5 reaffirms the paramount importance of strict compliance with such a prohibition.

Although placement of other weapons in outer space is not expressly prohibited under international law, we believe such a placement would be in contravention of the established global principle of the use of outer space exclusively for peaceful purposes. We attach importance to OP 5 of this resolution which calls upon all States to uphold that principle and commit themselves to refrain from placing weapons in outer space, pending the conclusion of an international agreement to prevent arms race in outer space in all its aspects. For these reasons, my delegation voted in favor of L. 47.

I thank you Mr. Chairman.