Delegation of the Islamic Republic of Iran

Explanation of the vote on the Draft Resolution L.6

Mr. Chairman;

The Islamic Republic of Iran shares the humanitarian concerns of the States parties to the "Ottawa Convention" for sponsoring draft resolution L.6 entitled "Implementation of the Convention on Prohibition of the Use, Stockpiling, Production and Transfer of Anti- Personnel Mines and on Their Destruction".

Landmines have been used irresponsibly by the military and armed groups during the civil wars in certain regions of the world and consequently have claimed a great number of innocent lives particularly among the women and children. We welcome every effort to stop this trend.

The Ottawa Convention, however, focuses mainly on humanitarian concerns while neglecting or not adequately taking into account legitimate military requirements of many countries, particularly those with long land borders, for the use of APLs in defending their territories." Due to the difficulties of monitoring sensitive extensive areas by established and permanent guarding posts or effective warning systems, landmines continue to be the effective means, for those countries, to ensure the minimum security requirement of their borders. Meanwhile we believe that this defensive device should be used under strict established rules and regulations to protect the civilians and at the same time more national and international effort should be made to explore new alternatives to landmines.

Moreover international cooperation should be promoted to speed up the mine clearance activities for reducing civilian casualties and to establish sustainable indigenous de-mining programs.

My delegation, while appreciating the objectives of the draft resolution, due to its particular concerns and considerations, could not support the resolution and therefore cast an abstention vote.