My delegation has abstained from the vote on draft resolution A/C.1/57/L.68 entitled "Implementation of the Convention on the Prohibition of the Use, Stockpiling, Production and Transfer of Anti-Personnel Mines and on Their Destruction", because it contains provisions inconsistent with our security needs.

Nevertheless, the Republic of Korea supports the humanitarian objectives of the Mine Ban Convention, which aims to eliminate the consequences of the indiscriminate use of anti-personnel landmines. As a member of the Mine Action Support Group, my Government has taken part in international initiatives to that end. Furthermore, the Republic of Korea is carrying out its due responsibilities on the landmine issue within the framework of Amended Protocol II to Convention on Conventional Weapons. On another positive note, South and North Korea began mine-clearing operations in the Demilitarized Zone last month as part of work to reconnect cross-border rail and road links.