Iran

Explanation of vote L.33

I've taken the floor to explain the position of my delegation with respect to draft resolution L.33 entitled "Verification in all its aspects, including the role of the U.N in the field of verification."

Mr. Chairman,

The question of verification is regarded among the most important issues in the post-Cold War era. In the recent years, multilaterally negotiated disarmament treaties, particularly CWC and CTBT have been accompanied with very detailed verification systems.

In this spirit, the UN Disarmament Commission started to deliberate on this important issue and following intensive deliberations adopted sixteen verification principles, referred to in the preambular paragraph 2 of this draft resolution. The commission also introduced the outcome of its deliberations on the role of the United Nations on the verification area including the establishment of a standing body within the UN with the capacity to enforce on-site and off-site inspections.

Mr. Chairman,

Operative paragraph three of L.32 refers the UNSG to establish a panel of governmental experts to explore the question of verification in all its aspects including the role of the United Nations in the field of verification.

While we share the sentiment of the co-sponsor states to explore further on the issue, we believe that the most appropriate body to continue to explore this issue in the light of the UNDC verification principles would be the commission itself. The UNDC has extensively deliberated on the issue and should be given the opportunity to review the outcome of its discussions, and this is more relevant in a time when UNDC is suffering from an agreement of the member states on its agenda. And quite interestingly this issue of verification in all its aspects has been suggested by an important group of states as a candidate for an agenda item within the UNDC. The lack of agreement on the agenda of the UNDC has put this important UN deliberative body on the verge of a complete deadlock.

So, Mr. Chairman, we felt both substantively and procedurally that UNDC still is the best UN body to explore further on the issue including the role of UN in this regard. However we hope that the panel of governmental experts could make contributions to the process by taking into full account the work of the commission and the different views of member states. Otherwise the product of the panel of governmental experts would be more division and divergence rather than convergence.

My delegation however in the interest of the co-sponsors of the draft resolved to establish a panel of governmental experts decided to join the consensus to this draft.