Egypt

Explanation of Vote, L.50 "Hague Code of Conduct against Ballistic Missile Proliferation"

Mr. Chairman,

Egypt has supported the active involvement of engagement of the UN in addressing the issue of missiles since the issue was introduced in the First Committee five years ago. This position is an expression of our deeply held belief that the UN is the appropriate forum to address this and all other issues related to questions of international peace and security.

Since receiving the first draft of the HCOC from the MTCR member States in 2000, we have conveyed our position that there exist lacunae in the draft Code which, regrettably, have not been addressed in the final document of which we are taking note. They relate to areas of peaceful uses, cooperation and assistance. They also relate more specifically to the lack of comprehensive scope and the document, which only addresses the issue of proliferation of missiles but not their development, it addresses ballistic missiles but not cruise missiles, which are the most common type of missiles in terms of use and proliferation, especially during the past decade, and it ignores the most serious problem- that of the continued presence and development of nuclear weapons of which ballistic missiles are only a means of delivery.

In our view, the HCOC does not address the issue of missiles in a balanced manner nor can it do so without structural adjustments to its text.

Mr. Chairman,

In joining our fellow co-sponsors in submitting amendments to the draft resolution, we wished to highlight the means towards achieving a balance in the draft resolution. We have noted, regretfully, that there was an overwhelming vote against a positive role for the United Nations, an overwhelming vote against further steps toward development of the HCOC.

Mr. Chairman,

It is for the above reasons that the delegation of Egypt was unable to support this resolution.