Explanation of Vote by the delegation of Iran on the Draft Resolution L.51

My delegation decided to abstain on the draft resolution L.51 entitled "Transparency in Armaments" and this is in consistency with our principled position in recent years in advocating a more comprehensive approach towards transparency in armaments.

We repeatedly announced that transparency in conventional arms without transparency in WMD is imbalanced and lacks comprehensiveness, particularly in the sensitive region of the Middle East where the only non Party to the NPT, continues developing nuclear weapons and other kinds of WMD.

The resolution 46/36 L of 9 December 1991, as the basis of the whole initiative and main terms of reference for the subject, has not been fully and faithfully implemented. After more than a decade of the operation of the UN Register, there are only a recall of and a small reference to that resolution in the current draft while it was supposed that the UN Register to be a first step toward initiating such transparency in all kinds of armaments including weapons of mass destruction and in particular nuclear weapons.

My delegation hopes that in future a true and comprehensive transparency in armament, which should include all kind of armaments particularly WMDs, would be pursued by the General Assembly as it was recommended by the Group of Governmental Experts in 2000.