Explanation of Vote by the Delegation of the
Islamic Republic of Iran on the draft Resolution L.57

Mr. Chairman;

I have taken the floor to explain my delegation's position regarding the draft resolution L.57 entitled "The Illicit Trade in Small arms and Light Weapons in all its Aspects". My delegation expressed its views and considerations on some specific paragraphs of the draft resolution in a transparent manner in the informal consultation meeting held by co-authors of the text. In that meeting and afterwards, we urged the drafters to find a compromise solution to the contentious issues. Unfortunately, the co-authors of the draft failed to do so. Our concerns are as follows:

Regarding operative paragraph 4, we believe that the applied procedure and method of work on the draft outcome of the third Biennial Meeting of States to consider the implementation of PoA fell far short of the UNGA standards and principles including transparency and inclusiveness. Since such a procedure was harmful and could create an unjustifiable precedent for the future meetings and negotiations in the disarmament area within the United Nations framework, my delegation was not able to agree with the draft outcome that had not been negotiated in an inclusive and transparent manner. In that context, we regret that the leadership of the BMS-3 failed to perform the function required under the rules of procedure of the meeting, namely, making every efforts to facilitate the achievement of general agreement on substantive matters.

Therefore, my delegation can not go along with the endorsement of the outcome of the BMS-3 as it is stipulated in the operative paragraph 4 of the draft resolution.
At the same time, the operative paragraph 13 which contains a selective approach in dealing with PoA is not acceptable to us either.

Nevertheless I would like to emphasize that Iran attaches great importance to combating the trafficking of SALWs and has actively and constructively participated in the relevant meetings and negotiations on the "UN Program of Action to Prevent, Combat and Eradicate the Illicit Trade in Small Arms and Light Weapons in All Its Aspects" and will continue to do so with the hope that unpleasant method of work implemented in the BMS3 would not be repeated in the future meetings on this issue.