Thank you, Mr Chairman.

1. I am taking the floor to explain my delegation’s vote to abstain on the draft resolution L.27, entitled “Missiles”.

2. Singapore acknowledges the growing military significance of missiles in general, which warrants increased international attention on this issue. Singapore supports all initiatives against the indiscriminate use of missiles, especially when they are directed at innocent and defenseless civilians, and when they are used as weapons of mass destruction.

3. At the same time, we should not disregard legitimate security concerns of States and the right to use missiles in self-defense. Therefore, the international movement to examine the issue of missiles in all aspects needs to recognize both its impact on regional and global security, and the legitimate right of States to use missiles for self-defense.

4. That said, Singapore is also concerned about the increasing number of Groups of Governmental Experts (GGEs) being convened to discuss disarmament and non-proliferation issues. We believe that these issues should continue to be discussed by all member states in an inclusive, open and transparent manner. However, should member states decide that a GGE is necessary, the scope and objective of its work must be clearly defined to ensure that the GGE can provide focused recommendations that are helpful to member states.

Thank you.

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