In the Name of God, the Most Compassionate, the Most Merciful

Mr. Chairman,

I would like to explain the position of my delegation regarding draft resolution on “the Hague Code of Conduct against Ballistic Missile Proliferation” as contained in document A/C.1/67/L.23.

My delegation believes that the Hague Code of Conduct (HCOC) is basically suffers from procedural flaws. It was drafted and endorsed outside the United Nations in a selective, unbalanced and incomprehensive manner. So, the Code does not represent a fully negotiated text. There is lack of transparency between HCOC and its relationship with the non-transparent club of MTCR as well.

HCOC has also several substantive shortcomings including that:

1) The text contains no disarmament perspective and, through this discrimination, acknowledges possession of ballistic missiles by a few States while aiming to discourage others from obtaining them, irrespective of their reasons for doing so;

2) HCOC has exclusively focused on ballistic missiles and has failed to address other kind of missiles, particularly the cruise missiles, which have been used coincidently by staunch supporters of the HCOC in recent years more than any other types of missiles;
3) It has failed to provide a definition of what constitute “ballistic missiles capable of delivering weapons of mass destruction” leaving it to political considerations of a few countries to arbitrary interpret it;

4) The text does not offer a distinction between Space Launch Vehicles (SLVs) programs and ballistic missiles program. So the SLVs programs are also subject to arbitrary unilateral interpretation;

5) The text has a vague and restrictive language with regard to assistance and cooperation in the area of SLVs;

6) The important issue of the development of ballistic missiles by the already possessors has not been addressed in comparison with proliferation aspect. In fact, HCOC is silent about the vertical proliferation of ballistic as well as cruise missiles; and

7) Last, but not the least, the right of all States to peaceful applications of space, including having access to necessary technology for Space Launch Vehicles has been overlooked or neglected.

There was a promise by the then Chairman of the HCOC in 2005 to have a substantive and positive consideration of the amendments presented by the non-subscribing States. Nevertheless, since then we have not noticed any substantive changes in the draft Resolution, and even worse, some explicit and implicit references to the United Nations Security Council Resolutions have been added in the text upon some of which, in particular Resolution 1887 the Non-Aligned Movement has strong reservation.

Therefore, Mr. Chairman, my delegation, once again, obliged to vote against this draft resolution.

Finally, we believe that the issues of missile in all its aspects should be considered within the United Nations and for this reason this year we proposed a draft decision on Missiles which was adopted by consensus by the Committee on 5 November.

I thank you Mr. Chairman.