Explanation of Vote of the Delegation of the Islamic Republic of Iran

On Draft Resolution Entitled:

"Treaty banning the production of fissile material for nuclear weapons or other nuclear explosive devices"

At the 67th Session of the First Committee
New York, 5 November 2012

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

Mr. Chairman,

My delegation voted in abstention to draft resolution on “Treaty banning the production of fissile material for nuclear weapons or other nuclear explosive devices” contained in document A/C.1/67/L.41 as a whole.

In our view, by proposing this draft resolution which is on a certain subject under discussion within the Conference on Disarmament (CD), some countries are intended to misuse General Assembly as a leverage to prioritize the items on the CD’s agenda.

My delegation is of the firm belief that nuclear disarmament is the highest priority on the disarmament agenda, and the total elimination of nuclear weapons is the only absolute guarantee against the use or threat of use of such weapons. Accordingly, starting negotiations in the CD on a phased program for the complete elimination of nuclear weapons within a specified timeline, including conclusion of a Nuclear Weapons Convention in order to legally prohibit, once and for all, the possession, development, stockpiling and use or threat to use of nuclear weapons by any country and provide for the destruction of such inhumane weapons, must be the highest priority in negotiations on the items in the agenda of the CD.

Regarding a treaty which is to ban the fissile material for nuclear weapons purposes, we strongly believe that it should not be developed as a mere non-proliferation instrument. We will never accept such an approach. We also stress that the scope of such a treaty must cover the past, present and future production of fissile material for nuclear weapons or other nuclear explosive devices and provide for their complete destruction.
My delegation also voted against operative paragraph (3) of this draft resolution regarding the establishment of a group of governmental experts to make recommendations on possible elements that could contribute to a treaty banning the production of fissile material for nuclear weapons or other nuclear explosive devices. We did so because we did not and do not welcome to take outside the CD the issues that are on its agenda. My delegation is of the view that this is a premature attempt to prioritize the items on the CD’s agenda, to take the issues outside the CD, and to divert the attentions from the nuclear disarmament and total elimination of nuclear weapons as the highest priority of the international community in the field of disarmament.

It is also an attempt to restrict the consideration of disarmament issues only to a selective group and limited number of States in order to influence and prejudice the multilateral process.

While supporting CD’s position as the sole multilateral negotiating body on disarmament, we believe that by the new approach taken by the sponsor, the draft resolution will lose its credibility.

*I thank you Mr. Chairman.*