Explanations of Vote of the Delegation of the Islamic Republic of Iran

On Draft Resolution Entitled:

“Implementation of the Convention on the Prohibition of the Use, Stockpiling, Production and Transfer of Anti-personnel Mines and on Their Destruction”

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,


Landmines have been used irresponsibly by military and armed groups during the civil wars in certain regions of the world and consequently have claimed a great number of innocent lives, particularly among the women and children. We welcome every effort to stop this trend.

However, Anti-personnel Mines Convention focuses mainly on humanitarian concerns and does not adequately take into account the legitimate military requirements of many countries, particularly those with long land borders, for responsible and limited use of mines to defend their territories.

Due to the difficulties of monitoring sensitive extensive areas by established and permanent guarding posts or effective warning systems, unfortunately landmines continue to be the effective means, for those countries, to ensure the minimum security requirement of their borders.
While this defensive device should be used under strict established rules to protect civilians, more national and international efforts also should be made to explore new alternatives to landmines.

Likewise, international cooperation should be promoted to speed up the mine clearance activities for reducing civilian casualties and to establish sustainable indigenous de-mining programs.

My delegation, while appreciating the objectives of the draft resolution, due to its particular concerns and considerations, could not support this draft resolution and therefore cast an abstention vote.

*I thank you Mr. Chairman.*