Mr. Chairman,

I would like to explain the position of my delegation regarding the draft resolution on the “United action towards the total elimination of nuclear weapons”, as contained in document A/C.1/69/L.36.

Achieving the objective of the total elimination of nuclear weapons as the only absolute guarantee against their use has the highest priority in the Islamic Republic of Iran's policy in the area of disarmament. Accordingly, we share the main objective of the draft resolution which calls for the total elimination of nuclear weapons. We support the OP 3 which reaffirms the vital importance of the universality of the NPT.

However, we cannot accept the assertion that the fulfillment of nuclear disarmament obligations is conditional upon the enhancement of international peace and security, as suggested in the 6th preamble paragraph. Full compliance with legal obligations on nuclear disarmament, under any circumstances, is essential to achieving the objective of the total elimination of nuclear weapons.

The draft has extensively addressed certain regional issues related to the East Asia region but has ignored to equally address the proliferation risk posed by the unsafeguarded nuclear facilities of Israeli regime, as the only non-party to the NPT in the Middle East region. Furthermore, in OP 17 the author of the draft resolution has overlooked the agreed mandate for convening a conference on the establishment of a Middle East zone free of nuclear weapons and all other weapons of mass destruction, as contained in the 2010 NPT RevCon Final Document. This clearly demonstrates lack of consistency and integrity on the part of the sponsor in dealing with the agreements of the 2010 NPT RevCon.
With regard to the work of the Conference on Disarmament, the draft resolution suffers from a significant imbalance. Because it focuses only on FMCT and fails to call for the urgent commencement of negotiations on nuclear disarmament in the CD.

For these reasons, my delegation has decided to abstain in voting on this draft resolution as a whole. We urge the sponsor to observe the principle of consistency, transparency and inclusiveness in drafting and conducting consultation on this resolution next year.

I thank you Mr. Chairman.