Mr. Chairman,

I would like to explain the position of my delegation with respect to draft resolution on “Compliance with non-proliferation, arms limitation and disarmament agreements and commitments” contained in document A/C.1/69/L. 45.

As a principled position, the Islamic Republic of Iran is of a strong belief that all States shall comply, on a non-discriminatory basis, with their obligations under all provisions of the treaties to which they are party.

On the content of this draft resolution in terms of its merits, we are satisfied that it makes a reference to the concept of compliance as a contribution to the efforts in preventing the “development” of Weapons of Mass Destruction. OP 8 of the draft resolution “Urges those States not currently in compliance with their respective obligations and commitments to make the strategic decision to come back into compliance”. We fully support this demand and in this context, call on those nuclear weapon States which are among the sponsors of this resolution and are not currently in compliance with their respective nuclear disarmament obligations under Article VI of the NPT, to move beyond rhetoric and words and make strategic decision and to take effective and systematic actions towards the total elimination of their nuclear arsenals in order to prevent further damage to international security and stability arising from their continued non-compliance with their nuclear disarmament obligations.

We have some principled reservations with regard to the substance of this draft resolution, including the following:
1. While the nuclear disarmament is the highest priority for the international community in disarmament area, the text fails to accord priority to compliance with nuclear disarmament obligations and commitments;

2. The central role of the international organizations such as the OPCW and IAEA, which are responsible for the verification of compliance by States parties to the disarmament and non-proliferation instruments in accordance with the procedures defined in those agreements, is overlooked;

3. Consultations and cooperation among States parties to the relevant instruments in resolving their concerns with regard to compliance as well as on implementation, in accordance with the procedures defined in those treaties, are essential in promoting multilateralism and full and effective implementation of such instruments. Regrettably, this fundamental principle has been totally ignored in this draft resolution;

4. Compliance is a very important legal issue. Therefore, the precision and clarity are needed for any text dealing with this sensitive question. The content of this draft resolution lacks such quality. None of the internationally agreed texts are included in this draft resolution;

5. We do not agree with an approach which supports national technical means for verification, compliance and enforcement. Such an approach which tends to be implemented on the basis of politically motivated assumptions would lead to resorting to unilateralism and would undermine the multilaterally agreed verification mechanisms.

And finally, it is paradoxical that a regime which is not party to any international instruments banning weapons of mass destruction and continues to develop all kinds of weapons of mass destruction in the Middle East region is included in the list of co-sponsors of L. 45 which urges UN Member States to comply with such instruments. This has only tarnished the standing of this resolution. For these reasons, my delegation voted in abstention on L. 45.

I thank you Mr. Chairman.