Turning to draft resolution L.28 entitled “Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty (CTBT)”, the Islamic Republic of Iran as a signatory State of the CTBT voted in favor of the draft resolution as a whole.

The principal objective of the Treaty is to terminate comprehensively further qualitative improvement of nuclear weapons and the development of advanced new types of nuclear weapons. This objective was reaffirmed by nuclear-weapon States at the time of the conclusion of the CTBT. Two decade after the adoption of the Treaty by the General Assembly, we need to answer whether we have achieved this objective or conversely the qualitative improvement of such weapons and the development of new types of nuclear weapons are being continued.

Based on publicly available information, nuclear-weapon States are modernizing and upgrading qualitatively their nuclear weapons by using new technologies. The development and use of new technologies for upgrading and modernizing existing nuclear weapon systems, including through sub-critical testing and simulations, undermine the object and purpose of the CTBT. It is a source of serious regret that in this draft resolution there is even merely no call on the nuclear weapon States to refrain from such measures. In view of my delegation the current draft resolution could be improved to meet the above-mentioned concerns.

At the same time, my delegation dissociates itself from the references in the draft resolution to the Security Council resolution. In principle, in our view, the General Assembly can and must express its views on any matter independently and there is no need to refer to the work of other organs which was done in a completely different context.

There are also certain other aspects in this draft on which my delegation expresses its serious reservations: firstly, pending the entry into force of the Treaty, its verification regime, at any stage of development, should be considered on a provisional basis, as an independent and reliable means to ensure compliance with the Treaty once it enters into force.

Secondly, noting the positive roles which might be played by the different initiatives of the Executive Secretary of the Provisional Technical Secretariat including the "Friends of the CTBT", "Group of Eminent Persons", or "Youth Group", none of them should have an official status in the preparatory process for the Treaty's verification regime, therefore any documents out of those bodies should not also gain any status in the process.