Explanation of Vote on the Draft Resolution L. 29
by Delegation of the Islamic Republic of Iran

In the Name of God, the Compassionate, the Merciful

The Islamic Republic of Iran supports the objective of the prevention of illicit trade in arms. However, my delegation will abstain in the voting on the draft resolution L.29 entitled "Arms Trade Treaty" for the following reasons:

First, L. 29 still continues to welcome the adoption, in 2013, of the ATT, an instrument in which political and commercial interests of certain arms exporting countries have higher place and priority than observance of the fundamentals of international law. While the international prohibition on the use of force by one State against the territorial integrity or political independence of another is the most fundamental principle of modern international law, the ATT has failed to uphold this principle by refraining from prohibiting arms transfer to countries that are engaged in committing acts of aggression, including foreign occupation. This is a significant loophole and major legal deficiency in this instrument, and therefore, we cannot welcome the adoption of such an instrument.

Second, OP 4 of L. 29 calls upon non-parties to accede to the treaty. Taking into account the fact that this Treaty was not adopted by consensus due to its substantive flaws and ignoring the concerns and interest of some Member States, and while major violations of its provisions are being taken place by some of its States parties, such a call for universalization of the ATT is unacceptable and lacks credibility. There is well-documented evidence of serious violations of international humanitarian law having been committed by Saudi Arabia in its 20-month aggression to Yemen. In such circumstances, certain ATT States parties, in particular the major champion of the ATT creation, continue to export to Saudi Arabia arms and munitions which would be used to commit such a violation. ATT States parties have obligation not to authorize any transfer of arms where they have knowledge that those weapons would be used to commit grave breaches of the Geneva Conventions of 1949 as well as attacks directed against civilians and civilian objects.