First Committee

72nd UN General Assembly

Statement by
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Explanation of Vote

L.42 – Comprehensive Test Ban Treaty

United Nations, New York

27 October 2017
Mr. Chairperson,

Israel voted in favor of resolution L.42 titled "Comprehensive Test Ban Treaty" in light of its longstanding support of the Treaty, which we signed in 1996. Since the establishment of the Preparatory Commission of the CTBT, Israel has actively participated in the development of all elements of the Treaty's verification regime. Israel transmits data from its certified seismic stations to the International Data Center, and actively participates in various relevant activities. Israel's significant support and involvement in the substantive work of the CTBTO Prep.Com is consonant with the importance it attributes to this Treaty, and recognition of its contribution to the enhancement of international peace and security. In that vein, Israel co-sponsored UNSC 2310 adopted on 2016.

Mr. Chairperson,

Notwithstanding Israel's favorable attitude towards the Treaty, as outlined earlier, we were unable to support the language contained in L.42 in its entirety, in particular preambular paragraph 7 and operative paragraph 1.
Preambular paragraph 7 inserts references from the NPT and its review conference into a resolution dealing with the CTBT. While both treaties are in the nuclear domain, they are different in their subject matter, scope, obligations and membership. In accordance with international law, decisions and resolutions taken in the context of one forum cannot be injected into the work of the other without the latter's explicit consent.

Mr. Chairperson,

With regards to OP1, it should be noted that the completion of the verification regime is a prerequisite for entry into force (EIF) of the Treaty, in accordance with the stipulation of article IV(1). It also constitutes a major consideration for ratification for Israel. While significant progress has been made in the development of the CTBT verification regime, further efforts are still required.

Mr. Chairperson,
The regional security situation in the Middle East, including adherence to and compliance with the Treaty by states in the region, is another major consideration for ratification for Israel.

Another significant consideration for ratification is Israel's equal status in the policy making organs of the Treaty's Organization. The fact that the MESA regional group, defined in Annex 1 of the Treaty, has been paralyzed for nearly 20 years is an inexcusable situation that must be resolved.

I thank you.