Mr. Chairman,

I have taken the floor to explain the position of my delegation regarding the draft resolution L.26 on the CTBT.

As a Treaty’s signatory, Iran will vote in favor of this draft resolution.

The principal objective of the Treaty is to terminate the development and qualitative improvement of nuclear weapons and ending the development of advanced new types of nuclear weapons. 22 years after the Treaty’s adoption, we need to answer whether we have achieved this objective.

Unfortunately, nuclear-weapon States, in particular the U.S., are modernizing and upgrading qualitatively their nuclear weapon systems by using new technologies, including through sub-critical testing and simulations. While this undermines the CTBT’s object and purpose, 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.

My delegation will abstain on PP.4 of this draft resolution and dissociates itself from the references in this paragraph to the Security Council resolution. In our view, firstly, the involvement of the UNSC in the proceedings of CTBTO-Preparatory Process was not and is not justified, mainly due to the particular status of Treaty’s operation and the unique provisional status of the Preparatory Commission, which operates only to achieve certain objectives; and secondly, the 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 Treaty’s entry into force, all the activities of the Preparatory Commission are for the purpose of carrying out the necessary preparations for the Treat’s effective implementation, and for preparing for the first session of the Conference of the States Parties. Therefore, all the works with regard to the
verification regime, at any stage of development, should be considered, as the necessary preparations for 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.

Thirdly, while we acknowledge the potential “civil and scientific benefits, which might be available to States Signatories, by the CTBT global monitoring system” as reflected in the draft resolution, we stress that such benefits shall neither distract our attentions from the fundamental objectives of the Treaty, nor be used as a pretext for its de facto operationalization. Such benefits are not within the inherent mandate of the Treaty. Therefore, the Preparatory Commission should decide on the relevant requests, on a case by case basis.

Finally, we express concern over the closed and non-inclusive process for updating this resolution. Such an important resolution needs to be thoroughly discussed by the participation of all concerned and interested countries.

I thank you, Mr. Chairman.