73\textsuperscript{rd} Session of the General Assembly

Item 101ii
L.60 entitled “Countering the threat posed by improvised explosive devices”

New York, 6 November 2018

Explanation of Vote

Mr. Chair,

I take the floor to explain the position of Switzerland on resolution L.60 titled “Countering the threat posed by improvised explosive devices”.

Switzerland is deeply concerned by the growing humanitarian challenges of improvised explosive devices. The prevention of the unlawful use of IEDs is essential. While we joined consensus on this resolution, my delegation wishes to express the following considerations.

- First, concerns over humanitarian consequences or the unlawful use of IEDs are not dependent on the status of the actor or its labelling, that is to say, whether a “legal” or “illegal” armed group or even a state actor used an IED in an unlawful manner.

- Second, when preventing or combating the use of IEDs or their proliferation, any measure taken must comply with international law, as noted in the present resolution. Switzerland would reiterate that the fact that an actor is labelled as “terrorist”, “criminal” or “illegal” in a given situation cannot prejudice or affect the application, fulfilment and respect of international law, especially human rights law and, in armed conflicts, international humanitarian law.

We hope that these concerns will be addressed in next year’s resolution.

I thank you Mr. Chair.