

**Explanation of Vote of
the Delegation of the Islamic Republic of Iran
On Draft Resolution L.20
Entitled: “Implementation of the Convention on Cluster Munitions”
78th Session of the UNGA First Committee
New York, 1 November 2023**

In the Name of God, the Most Compassionate, the Most Merciful

Mr. Chairman,

I have taken the floor to explain the vote of my delegation regarding the draft resolution L.20 on the “Implementation of Convention on Cluster Munitions”.

Extending our best wishes for the success of our brotherly nation, Iraq, as they assume the presidency of the Eleventh Conference of the States Parties to the Convention on the Prohibition of Cluster Munitions, I would like to clarify that my delegation chose to abstain from voting on draft resolution L.20 for the following reasons:

First, my delegation did not participate in its negotiations and is neither a signatory nor a party thereto;

Second, we cannot support an instrument negotiated outside of the UN that is in disregard of the security concerns and interests of many States.

As a general principle, we believe that negotiations on disarmament subjects, due to their nature which addresses vital issues such as the security concerns and interests of States, requires not only a balanced and comprehensive approach but also a progressive, transparent and all-inclusive process that incorporates consensual decision-making procedures. This is essential “to ensure the right of each State to security and to ensure that no individual State or group of

States may obtain advantages over others at any stage” as stressed in the SSOD-I Final Document.

We continue to share the view of many delegations that the Cluster Munitions Convention was negotiated and concluded in an exclusive process outside of the United Nations disarmament machinery, disregarding the interests of many States. Therefore, circumventing the United Nations disarmament machinery should not be allowed, and such a process should not be encouraged or promoted by the UNGA.

Thank you, Mr. Chairman.