In the name of God, the most Compassionate, the most Merciful

No.559

The Permanent Mission of the Islamic Republic of Iran to the United Nations presents its compliments to the Office for Disarmament Affairs of the United Nations and with reference to the latter's note No. ODA/20-2016/IED dated 08 February 2016, has the honour to enclose herewith the views of the Islamic Republic of Iran on the “Countering the threat posed by improvised explosive devices”, and, pursuant to paragraph 16 of the General Assembly Resolution 70/46, request that they be included in their entirety in the report of the Secretary General.

The Permanent Mission of the Islamic Republic of Iran to the United Nations avails itself of this opportunity to renew to the Office for Disarmament Affairs of the United Nations the assurances of its highest considerations.

New York, 17 June 2016

Office for Disarmament Affairs of the
United Nations
New York

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Ms. Jenny Fuchs (fuchs@un.org).
Views of the Islamic Republic of Iran pursuant to operative paragraph 16 of General Assembly resolution 70/46 on the “Countering the threat posed by improvised explosive devices”

The Islamic Republic of Iran shares the concerns over the increase in the use of Improvised Explosive Devices (IEDs) by illegal armed groups and terrorists, and its adverse impacts on the life of civilians and the socio-economic development of affected societies. Accordingly, Iran strongly supports the main thrust of the General Assembly resolution 70/46, the exclusive purpose of which is to counter the threat posed by the use of IEDs by illegal armed groups and terrorists.

Iran stresses the need for all States to promote their national policy, legislative and other measures, where appropriate, to prevent the access of illegal armed groups and terrorists to explosives and other materials and components that can be used to manufacture and use IEDs. However, taking into account the wide spectrum of materials that can be used for manufacturing and use of IEDs, and bearing in mind the fact that identifying the scope of such items, many of which have civilian applications, is almost impossible, Iran is of the strong view that such national measures shall, in no way, restrict or limit, under the pretext of IEDs application, the free and indiscriminate access of all States and their entities and citizens to, research and trade in, and development, production and use of, all goods, materials, equipments, know-how and technologies for civilian purposes.

Moreover, recalling the fact that the resolution 70/46 has reaffirmed the "inherent right of Member States to individual or collective self-defence in accordance with Article 51 of the Charter of the United Nations", Iran underlines that it is necessary to strike a delicate balance between preventing the access of illegal armed groups and terrorists to explosives and other materials and components that can be used to manufacture and use IEDs, and the inherent and legitimate security needs and interests of States in free, indiscriminate and unconditional access to, research and trade in, and development, production and use of, all such goods, materials, equipments, know-how and technologies.

Iran strongly believes that any possible discussion on any probable measure "for ways forward" on preventing the access of illegal armed groups and terrorists to explosives and other materials and components that can be used to manufacture and use IEDs, must be, first and foremost, a State-driven, open and inclusive process, explore all its aspects, and take into account, in particular, the inherent security rights and needs of any States and the rights of their citizens in free, indiscriminate and unconditional access to, research and trade in, and development, production and use of, all goods, materials, equipments, know-how and technologies for peaceful purposes.

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