19 October 2004

Islamic Republic of IRAN

Introductory Remarks on the Resolution of “Missiles” A/C.1/59/L.6

Mr. Chairman,

Today, I have the honor to take the floor to introduce the Draft resolution A/C.1/59/L.6 entitled: “Missiles”. Egypt, Indonesia and Iran are the sponsors of this Draft Resolution.

Since the introduction of this item within the agenda of the General Assembly in 1999, increasing supports have been given to addressing the issue of missiles in all its aspects in the United Nations. The First Panel of Governmental Experts could adopt its report, the very first of such report in the history of the UN, in which the issue of missiles in all its aspects was addressed comprehensively. The success of the First Panel opened the prospect for exploring further ways and means on this issue within the UN. Unfortunately the Second Panel of Governmental Experts ended its job short of a similarly success as of the very First Panel. The Secretary General of the United Nations in his report to the General Assembly stated that: “Given the complexity of the issue at hand, no consensus was reached on the preparation of a final report by the Panel”.

Such a situation manifested once again that dealing with the complex issue of missiles requires more preparation with profound organization, sufficient timing and intensified endeavor on behalf of all of us. Notwithstanding, we are at the initial phase of a longer process and should not feel disappointed. It is necessary to refresh our efforts by a collective response to advance the issue of missiles within the United Nations and further our endeavor to narrow down our differences for achieving the common objectives.
The Draft Resolution A/C.1/59/L.6, this year concentrates on defining our novel future steps to address missiles at the United Nations. The Draft Resolution in its operative paragraph 3 suggests the establishment of a third panel of Governmental Experts in the two consecutive years of 2007 and 2008 with a more specified mandate of “to explore further ways and means to address within the United Nations, the issue of missiles in all its aspects, including identifying areas where consensus can be reached”. This mandate in contrast with the mandates of the previous panels which were general has been narrowed down for the purpose of enabling the Group of Governmental Experts to be more specified and focused in their discussions. The time frame of the 2 years aims to provide more time to the experts of the panel to enable them to have a thorough and sufficient discussion.

In the meantime, operative paragraph 2 suggests that a study would be made by the Secretary General of the United Nations, with the support of qualified consultants and the UNIDIR in 2006. This report would concentrate on identifying areas where consensus can be reached. We are of the belief that the UN study would be an important in-depth study on the issue and without committing States on its findings could be helpful for the Member States and particularly be a useful input for the 3rd Panel of Governmental Experts.

I thank you.