Mr. Chairman,

My delegation in its statement during general debate stated its intention of presenting a draft resolution on the issue of missiles taking into account the successful conclusion of the work of the third Panel of Governmental Experts. In this regard, I would like to make a few points.

Egypt, Indonesia and the Islamic Republic of Iran are the traditional sponsors of the draft resolution entitled "Missiles". The draft has been issued as document A/C.1/63/L.27.

The third Panel of Governmental Experts which was established pursuant to Resolution 59/67 had serious, in-depth and comprehensive discussions in a constructive manner on the complex issue of missiles in all its aspects including areas where consensus could be reached. Notwithstanding complexity of the issue and divergent views, the Panel successfully concluded its work by adopting a consensual report. The report has been already distributed as document A/63/176.

The adoption of the report by consensus is encouraging and represents the value of discussions and deliberations of the complex issue of missiles by experts within the United Nations. As the Secretary-General said in his report to the GA in 2006, document A/61/168, "there is no other forum where experts from States with extremely diverse perspectives can engage in
comprehensive and thorough discussion of these issues, with the explicit objective of reaching consensus on the issue of missiles in all its aspects." Moreover, the third Panel in the conclusion part of its report emphasized the important role of the United Nations in providing a more structured and effective mechanism to build such a consensus.

Since the introduction of this item into the agenda of the General Assembly in 1999, increasing support has been given to addressing the issue of missiles in all its aspects within the framework of the United Nations. For instance, The Non-Aligned Movement in the final document of its 15th Ministerial Conference held in July 2008, emphasized the need to keep the issue of missiles in all its aspects on the agenda of the UN General Assembly and welcomed the successful conclusion of the work of third Panel of Governmental Experts.

The draft resolution L.27 has been prepared in keeping with the spirit of its predecessors. The first operative paragraph in the draft welcomes the report of the Secretary-General. The second operative paragraph seeks the views of Member States on the report and request the Secretary-General to submit those views in a report to the sixty-fifth session of the GA.

We hope that delegations will be able to support the draft resolution, as they have already supported the relevant resolutions in previous years.

Thank you.