Statement by H.E. Mr. Hossein Dehghani, Ambassador and Charge d’Affaires
Of the Islamic Republic of Iran to the United Nations
On Behalf of the Non-Aligned Movement
Before the United Nations General Assembly
under Agenda Item 40(b): Maintenance of International Peace and Security:
Necessity of Ending the Economic Commercial and Financial Embargo Imposed by
the United States of America against Cuba

28 October 2014

Mr. President

I have the honor to address the General Assembly today on behalf of the 120 Members of the United Nations that are members of the Non-Aligned Movement. I use this opportunity to extend Movement’s warmest welcome to H. E. Bruno Rodriguez Parrilla, the Minister of Foreign Affairs of Cuba to this General Assembly.

Today, the General Assembly is set for the twenty third times to express its support and solidarity with the Government and people of Cuba through a decisive vote in favor of the resolution calling for lifting of the United States of America embargo against Cuba. Last year 188 out of 193 Member States voted for this Resolution.

The Non-Aligned Movement has always reiterated its strongest opposition to unilateral coercive measures with extraterritorial effect. NAM has repeatedly reiterated its call to the Government of the United States of America to put an end to its unilateral economic, commercial and financial embargo against Cuba, which is contrary to international law, the UN Charter as well as the norms and principles governing peaceful relations among States. It also violates Cuba’s right to interact with the international community.

The embargo has had grave adverse impacts on the well being of the people of Cuba. The direct and indirect damage caused by this undeserved embargo against Cuba is enormous. It affects all crucial sectors of the economy such as public health, nutrition, and agriculture, as well as banking, trade, investment and tourism. It denies Cuba access to markets, development aid from international financial institutions and technology transfers and creates impediments for the socio-economic development of the Country. The embargo is also the main obstacle to broader access to the Internet, the exchange of
ideas and the development of cultural, sport and scientific relations. The continuation of the embargo is totally unjustifiable and runs counter to Cuba’s efforts to achieve sustainable development.

In addition, the measures the United States has taken unilaterally encroach on the rights and legitimate interests of Cuban nationals, as well as third-country nationals.

Mr. President

Despite the huge pressure the people of Cuba endured and the hardship they have went through as the result of embargo in the past decades, they are indeed worthy of praise for the significant progress they made especially in areas like education, healthcare, international cooperation. The role of Cuba in global fight against Ebola is just the most recent example where the largest number of healthcare workers deployed in the Ebola-infected countries in West Africa is from Cuba. Cuba’s response to Ebola was and continues to be far more robust than many countries far wealthier than it – and is a further proof the constructive role that Cuba plays in international affairs.

We recall that last year 188 UN Member States voted in favor of this resolution, which was an almost unanimous vote in demanding an end to the five-decade embargo and emphasizing the need to fully adhere to the principles of mutual respect and non-interference in internal affairs of Cuba. Currently, over 190 nations engage economically and politically with Cuba while the United States remains alone in pursuing its unjustified policy.

The Non-Aligned Movement, once again, urges the United States of America to yield to the will of the overwhelming majority of the international community and to rectify its failed polices by fully complying with all General Assembly Resolutions calling for an immediate end to the embargo imposed on Cuba.

Thank you Mr. President.