Statement by

H.E. Mr. Gholamhossein Dehghani
Ambassador and Charge d’Affairs
of the Islamic Republic of Iran

On behalf of the Non-Aligned Movement

before the 69th Session of the United Nations General Assembly

on Agenda Item 70:

“Report of the International Court of Justice”

New York, 30 October 2014

Mr. President,

I have the honour to deliver this statement on behalf of the Non-Aligned Movement.

The Non-Aligned Movement attaches great importance to agenda item 70 entitled “Report of the International Court of Justice” and takes note of the report contained in document A/69/4 regarding the activities of the Court between First of August 2013 to 31st of July 2014 as requested by the decision of the Assembly last year. I would also like to thank the President of the International Court of Justice for his presentation of the report to the Assembly.

Mr. President,

The Non-Aligned Movement reaffirms and underscores its principled positions concerning peaceful settlement of disputes, and non-use or threat of use of force. The International Court of Justice has a significant role in promoting and encouraging the settlement of international disputes by peaceful means, as reflected in the United Nations Charter, and in such a manner that international peace and security, and justice, are not endangered.

The Movement endeavors to generate further progress to achieve full respect for international law and, in this regard, commends the role of ICJ in promoting the peaceful settlement of international disputes, in accordance with the relevant provisions of the UN Charter and the Statute of the Court, in particular, articles 33 and 94 of the Charter.
In regard to advisory opinions of the Court, noting the fact that the Security Council has not sought any advisory opinion from the Court since 1970, the NAM urges the Security Council to make greater use of the ICJ, the principal judicial organ of the United Nations, as a source of advisory opinions and interpretation of relevant norms of international law, and on controversial issues. It further requests the Council to use the Court as a source of interpreting relevant international law, and also urges the Council to consider its decisions being reviewed by the Court, bearing in mind the need to ensure their adherence to the UN Charter, and international law.

The Movement also invites the General Assembly, other organs of the United Nations and the specialized agencies duly authorized, to request advisory opinions of the International Court of Justice on legal questions arising within the scope of their activities.

The Non-Aligned Movement reaffirms the importance of the unanimous ICJ advisory opinion issued on 8 July 1996 on the ‘Legality of the Threat or Use of Nuclear Weapons’. On this, the ICJ concluded that there exists an obligation to pursue in good faith and bring to a conclusion negotiations leading to nuclear disarmament in all aspects under strict and effective international control.

Mr. President,

The Non-Aligned Movement continues to call on Israel, the occupying Power, to fully respect the 9 July 2004 ICJ advisory opinion entitled "Legal Consequences of the Construction of a Wall in the Occupied Palestinian Territory", and calls upon all States to respect and ensure respect of the provisions therein for the realization of the end of the Israeli occupation that began in 1967 and the independence of the State of Palestine with East Jerusalem as its capital.

I thank you.