Statement by H.E. Mr. G. Hossein Dehghani, Ambassador and Charge d’Affaire a.i.
of the Islamic Republic of Iran to the United Nations
on behalf of the Non- Aligned Movement before the Meeting of the General
Assembly
On the Question of Equitable Representation on and Increase in the Membership of
the
Security Council and other Matters Related to the Security Council
12 November 2014, New York

Mr. President
I have the honor to speak on behalf of the Non- Aligned Movement. I would like
to thank you, Mr. President, for organizing this debate. We express our appreciation to
Ambassador John W. Ashe, the President of the 68th Session of GA, and Ambassador
Tanin, as the former Chair of IGN, for their efforts and takes notes of the most recent oral
decision of the General Assembly on the reform of the Security Council, which would
enable the continuation of IGN during the 69th Session of the General Assembly.

We underscore the validity and relevance of the Movement's principled positions
concerning the question of equitable representation on and increase in the membership of
the Security Council, and other matters related to the Security Council, in particular the
directives of the Movement adopted during its 11th, 12th, 13th, 14th and 15th and 16th
Summits, which have been reflected in the Movement’s position and negotiating papers,
and the decisions of the Ministerial Conferences and Meetings.

The Movement, while appreciating the efforts so far undertaken, notes with
concern the lack of important and concrete results during ten rounds of the
Intergovernmental Negotiations (IGN) of the General Assembly on the question of
equitable representation on and increase in the membership of the Security Council, and
other matters related to the Council, based on General Assembly decisions.

These negotiations have shown that, while a convergence of views has emerged,
major differences still persist, and while there have been some improvements made to the
working methods of the Council, they have not satisfied even the minimum expectations
of the general membership of the UN, leaving much room for improvement.
General Assembly Decision 62/557 is and shall continue to be the basis of Intergovernmental Negotiations on the Security Council reform. Reform of the Security Council should be comprehensive, addressing all substantive issues relating, inter alia, to the question of the membership, regional representation, the Council’s agenda, its working methods and decision-making process, including the veto, and should garner the widest possible political acceptance by Member States in line with the provisions of the Charter and relevant General Assembly decisions, particularly its decision 62/557. We are confident that these clear references will guide the work of, Ambassador Courtenay Rattray, Permanent Representative of Jamaica, in his newly assumed position as the new Chair of Intergovernmental negotiations. We take this opportunity to wish him all success, and assure him of NAM’s commitment to the reform of the Security Council.

The reform of the Security Council should be addressed in an early, comprehensive, transparent and balanced manner, without delay and without setting artificial deadlines. It should ensure that the agenda of the Council reflects the needs and interests of both developing and developed countries, in an objective, rational, non-selective and non-arbitrary manner.

The enlargement of the Council, as a body primarily responsible for the maintenance of international peace and security, and the reform of its working methods should lead to a democratic, more representative, more accountable and more effective Council. The Rules of Procedure of the Security Council, which have remained provisional for more than 60 years, should be formalized in order to improve its transparency and accountability.

Transparency, openness and consistency are key elements that the Security Council should observe in all its activities, approaches and procedures. Regrettably, the Council has neglected these important factors on numerous occasions. Such instances include unscheduled open debates with selective notification, reluctance in convening open debates on some issues of high significance, repeatedly restricting participation in some of the open debates and discriminating between members and non-members of the Council particularly with regard to sequencing and time limits of statements during the open debates, failure to submit special analytical reports to the General Assembly as required under Article 24 of the Charter, submission of annual reports still lacking sufficient information and analytical content, and lack of minimal parameters for the elaboration of the monthly assessment by Security Council presidencies.

Mr. President,

In recent years, the Security Council has been too quick to threaten or authorize enforcement action in some cases, while being silent and inactive in others. Furthermore, the Council has been increasingly resorting to Chapter VII of The Charter, as an umbrella for addressing issues that do not necessarily pose an immediate threat to international peace and security. A careful review of these trends indicates that the Council could have opted for alternative provisions to respond more appropriately to particular cases. Instead of excessive and premature use of Chapter VII, efforts should be made to fully utilize the
provisions of Chapters VI and VIII for the pacific settlement of disputes. Chapter VII should be invoked, as intended, as a measure of last resort. Unfortunately, provisions of Articles 41 and 42 in some cases have been too quickly resorted to while the other options had not been fully explored and exhausted;

The Security Council-imposed sanctions remain an issue of serious concern to Non-Aligned Countries. In accordance with the UN Charter, sanctions should be considered to be imposed only after all means of peaceful settlement of disputes under Chapter VI of the Charter have been exhausted and a thorough consideration undertaken of the short-term and long-term effects of such sanctions. Sanctions are a blunt instrument, the use of which raises fundamental ethical questions of whether sufferings inflicted on vulnerable groups in the target country is legitimate means of exerting pressure. The objectives of sanctions are not to punish or otherwise exact retribution on the populace. In this regard, the objectives of sanctions regimes should be clearly defined, and that its imposition should be for a specified timeframe and be based on tenable legal grounds, and that it should be lifted as soon as the objectives are achieved.

NAM rejects the use of the Security Council as a tool to pursue national political interests and agenda, aggravating rather than alleviating situations contrary to its mission enshrined in the Charter, and stresses the necessity of non-selectivity, impartiality and accountability in the work of the Council, and the need for the Council to strictly keep within the powers and functions accorded to it by the Member States under the UN Charter;

I congratulate Malaysia, Angola and Venezuela as the new NAM members in the Council for the term 2015-2016 and urge them, along with other Non-Aligned Countries who serve in the Security Council, to help promote and defend the NAM positions and objectives during their tenure in the Council. I also seize this opportunity to congratulate New Zealand and Spain for their success in becoming new non-permanent members of the Council during the two years ahead and hope that their presence in the Council will contribute to its effectiveness and efficiency in carrying out its mandate.

Thank you Mr. President.