It is my pleasure, Mr. Chairman, to introduce the draft resolution on missiles under agenda item 73, General and Complete Disarmament (A/58/C.1/L.4). This draft is presented in its fifth consecutive year and like the previous one, Egypt and Indonesia are co-sponsors of this resolution.

Following the establishment of the first ever UN Panel of Governmental Experts on the issue of missiles in all its aspects, by the Secretary General, in response to resolution 55/33 A, the first United Nations study on missiles was submitted to the 57th session in the form of a report (A/57/229).

The report of the first UN Panel of Expert on missiles was welcomed by the General Assembly last year and also by the XIII Conference of Heads of States and Government of Member States of Non-Aligned Movement in Kuala Lumpur, February 2001. In paragraph 78 of the K.I. final document, it is stated that:

"78. The Heads of State or Government welcomed the report prepared by the Panel of Governmental Experts on the issue of Missiles in all its aspects, which marked the first time the United Nations considered this issue. They noted with satisfaction the convening of another Panel of Governmental Experts to explore further the issue of missiles in all its aspects."

Mr. Chairman,

In response to the resolution 57/71, some countries, including mine, transmitted their views on the report of the Panel, contained in the report of the Secretary-General to the current session of the General Assembly (A/58/117 and its addenda). I would like to take this opportunity to express my gratitude to the Secretary-General and the Secretariat for the on-time preparation of this compilation. In the present draft resolution, the General Assembly would take note of this compilation and at the same time, for giving another chance to those who have not been able to convey their opinions this year, request the Secretary-General to further seek the views of Member States on the said report.

Mr. Chairman,

The report prepared by the Panel of Governmental Experts on the issues of missiles marked the first time that the United Nations considered this issue. Taking into account complexities involved, it is, therefore, imperative to further study the issue of missiles. Besides that, the Panel of Experts itself in the conclusion section of its report stated that the issues identified by the panel need to be further explored.
Hence, last year the General Assembly, by adoption of the resolution 57/71, has requested the Secretary General with the assistance of a Panel of Governmental Experts to explore further the issue of missiles in all its aspects and to submit a report for consideration by the General Assembly at its fifty-ninth session.

In this draft, by repeating that request, a phrase has been added that refers to the establishment of the Panel on the basis of equitable geographical distribution in 2004. This would enable the Secretary General to submit a report to the next session as it has been approved last year.

Mr. Chairman,

Missiles are amongst the main components of military operations as well as military strategies. Today all major powers in the world have reserved prominent role for the missiles in their military planning. Missiles are part and parcel of nuclear weapons as one of their means of delivery. In the conventional field, similarly, many countries as well as military alliances, have defined specific role for missiles to carry strike missions as well as to deter the adversary to launch military offences.

Missiles are a global issue and partial or very narrowly-defined measures to deal with missiles, will not be conducive to results. Recent developments and employment of some certain cruise missiles which can carry nuclear warheads in submarines at the regional level, truly proved the views of the Islamic Republic of Iran that the issue of missiles should be considered in all its aspects.

The recent news on the possible deployment of cruise missiles which confirmed by the relevant officials, has challenged the claims of those who were arguing that only one kind of missiles, namely ballistic missiles, are the real danger and should be considered with the priority.

We hope that the establishment of the second UN Panel of Governmental Experts and their deliberations on the issue of missiles in all its aspects would result in a better understanding of this global issue and seeking complementary measures to explore ways and means to the international community against the threats posed by some types of missiles as well as discussing and preparing specific recommendations with a view to dispelling the concerns of all States on the issues of missiles in all its aspects.

We are sincerely hopeful that the broadest support will be accorded to this resolution.