I am taking the floor today to introduce a draft decision and a draft resolution.

First is a draft decision that will be issued as document A/C.1/62/L.22 entitled “Missiles”. Egypt, Indonesia and Iran are the sponsors of this draft decision. 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.

The first Panel of Governmental Experts was able to adopt a report (A/57/229) — the very first of such report in the history of the United Nations — in which the issue of missiles in all its aspects was examined thoroughly. However, given the complexity of the issue at hand, the second Panel of Governmental Experts ended its work having fallen short of the success of the first Panel. Therefore, the UN General Assembly requested the Secretary-General, with the support of qualified consultants and the United Nations Institute for Disarmament Research (UNIDIR), to prepare a report for submission in 2006 and to establish a third Panel of Governmental Experts in 2007 with a more specific mandate “to further explore ways and means to address within the United Nations the issue of missiles in all its aspects, including identifying areas where consensus can be reached”.

Thanks to the efforts of the UNIDIR and the Secretariat, the report was submitted to the General Assembly and subsequently the Third Panel began its work.

We are pleased that the first session of the Third Panel had a very constructive and serious discussion on the complex issue of missiles in all its aspects. Since the Panel will have two more sessions in 2008, in keeping with the General Assembly’s recommendations on improving methods of work, the resolution’s sponsors have decided this year to present a draft decision instead of a draft resolution in which the inclusion of an item entitled “Missiles” in the provisional agenda of the sixty-third session of the General Assembly, is requested. Last year's resolution was supported by 115 Member States; we hope that delegations will be able to
support the draft decision, as they have already supported the relevant resolutions in previous years.

I would now like to introduce to the Committee for the second time a draft resolution entitled “Follow-up to the nuclear disarmament obligations agreed to at the 1995 and 2000 Review Conferences of the Parties to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons”, which will be issued as document A/C.1/62/L. 8

The Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons as the cornerstone of nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation in all its aspects was originally intended to be in force for 25 years. The 1995 NPT Conference extended the Treaty in a package of agreements and commitments, which in particular includes the nuclear-weapon States’ obligation to undertake “systematic and progressive efforts to reduce nuclear weapons globally, with the ultimate goals of eliminating those weapons” (NPT/CONF.1995/32 (Part I), p. 11), and adopted a resolution on the Middle East.

As a follow-up to nuclear disarmament obligations, the 2000 NPT Review Conference agreed by consensus on 13 practical steps for the systematic and progressive efforts to implement article VI of the NPT and paragraphs 3 and 4 (c) of the 1995 decision on principles and objectives for nuclear proliferation and disarmament. However, 12 years after the indefinite extension of the Treaty and 37 years after entry into force of the Treaty, the nuclear disarmament obligations have yet to be implemented. The international community has expressed on many occasions its concern about the lack of progress by the nuclear-weapon States in accomplishing the elimination of their nuclear arsenals with a view to achieve nuclear disarmament. Serious concerns are also being expressed over the development of new types and generations of nuclear weapons, in contravention with the undertakings provided by the nuclear-weapon States at the time of the conclusion of the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty (CTBT) that the Treaty would prevent the improvement of existing nuclear weapons and the development of new types of nuclear weapons.

Considering the fact that the NPT Review Conferences provide a good opportunity to hold accountable the nuclear-weapon States with respect to fulfilling their nuclear disarmament commitments, the draft resolution urges States Parties to follow up on the implementation of the nuclear disarmament obligations under the Treaty agreed to at the 1995 and 2000 Review Conferences of the Parties to the Treaty within the
framework of the 2010 Review Conference of the Parties to the Treaty and its preparatory committee. In this connection, the Preparatory Committee for the 2010 Review Conference of the States Party to the Non-Proliferation Treaty held a successful first meeting in Vienna in 2007. Indeed, we are satisfied with the fact that “compliance with all provisions of the NPT”, including Article VI of the Treaty on nuclear disarmament is now on the agenda of the review process.

The content of the draft resolution is self-explanatory and has mostly been taken from the consensus documents of the NPT Review Conferences. The text of this year resolution is similar to the previous one except for technical updating and the last preamble paragraph which takes note of the first meeting of the Preparatory Committee in 2007.

We are confident that this resolution would be supported by majority of Member States who are sincere in promoting the credibility and integrity of the NPT as it was the case last time.

Thank you.