Mr. Chairman,

I have the honor to speak on behalf of the Non-Aligned Movement (NAM). Under this cluster the Movement has tabled six draft resolutions and one draft decision, as follows:

First, draft resolution contained in document L.16 entitled “Implementation of the Declaration of the Indian Ocean as a Zone of Peace”. Since the adoption of the Declaration of the Indian Ocean as a Zone of Peace in 1971, the situation in the world, particularly in the Indian Ocean, has undergone major changes. Today in this region, a number of initiatives have been taken to bring about the socio-economic development of the countries concerned on the basis of economic, technical and scientific cooperation. In this context, there is still ample room to develop measures to realize the objectives of the 1971 Declaration.

Second, draft resolution, contained in document L.14 on “Observance of environmental norms in the drafting and implementation of agreements on disarmament and arms control”. NAM considers that the continued sustainability of the global environment is an issue of utmost importance, especially for coming generations. We should collectively endeavor to ensure that necessary measures are taken to preserve and protect the environment especially in the formulation and implementation of agreements concerning disarmament and arms control. We call upon all Member States to ensure the application of scientific and technological processes in the framework of international security, disarmament and other related fields without detriment to the environment or to its effective contribution to attaining sustainable development.

Third, draft resolution L.13 entitled, “Promotion of multilateralism in the area of disarmament and nonproliferation”. NAM believes strongly in multilateralism and multilaterally agreed solutions, in accordance with the UN Charter as the only sustainable way of addressing disarmament and international security issues. NAM also believes that it is critical for the General Assembly to
adopt such a resolution in order to reflect our continued conviction of the role of the United Nations in the area of disarmament and non-proliferation. NAM underscores multilateralism as the core principle in negotiations in the area of disarmament and non-proliferation with a view to maintaining and strengthening universal norms and enlarging their scope.

Fourth, draft resolution L.52 on “Relationship between disarmament and development”. NAM believes that the symbiotic relationship between disarmament and development and the important role of security in this connection cannot be denied. We are concerned at the increasing global military expenditures, which could otherwise go into development, poverty eradication and the elimination of diseases, particularly in the developing countries. NAM reiterates the importance of exercising restraint in military expenditure, so that human and financial resources thus saved can be used for the on-going efforts to eradicate poverty and achieve the Millennium Development Goals. In this connection, NAM welcomes the report of the Group of Governmental Experts on the relationship between disarmament and development, and its reappraisal of this significant issue in the current international context. We consider it important to follow up on the implementation of the action programme adopted at the 1987 International Conference on the Relationship between Disarmament and Development. In that regard, we invite Member States to provide to the Secretary-General information regarding measures and efforts to devote part of the resources made available by the implementation of disarmament and arms limitation agreements to economic and social development, with a view to reducing the ever-widening gap between developed and developing countries.

Fifth, a new draft resolution L.18 Rev.1 entitled “Effects of the use of armaments and ammunitions containing depleted uranium”. Depleted uranium (DU) is a chemically toxic and radioactive compound, which is used in armour piercing munition because of its very high density. There is not yet a clear understanding of the full impact that fine particles of DU may have on the human body. The International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA), the World Health Organization (WHO) and the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) have all stated that more research is needed with respect to the immediate and/or long-term health or environmental effects of DU munitions. In this connection, the draft resolution reflects a legitimate concern of the international community on the possible impacts of the use of armaments and ammunitions containing depleted uranium. It excludes controversial issues that were introduced in a previous resolution on this issue to the First Committee.

Last, is a draft decision L.51, entitled “Review of the Implementation of the Declaration on the Strengthening of International Security”. NAM reaffirms the importance of the Declaration on the Strengthening of International Security
adopted by the General Assembly on 16 December 1970, which, among others, emphasizes the need for the United Nations to exert continuous efforts in the strengthening of international peace and security.

In closing, the Non-Aligned Movement hopes that all delegations will be able to join us in supporting the six draft resolutions and the draft decision that will be taken action shortly.

I thank you, Mr. Chairman.