STATEMENT BY INDONESIA ON BEHALF OF THE NON-ALIGNED MOVEMENT AT THE CLOSING OF THE FIRST COMMITTEE OF THE 61TH SESSION OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY

Madam Chair,

I have the honour to speak on behalf of the Non-Aligned Movement. Allow me, first of all, to extend our gratitude and appreciation to you, Madam Chair, for your able and effective leadership in steering the work of the First Committee. Your leadership marks a history in the work of the Committee, as you are the first ever woman to preside over the Committee.

We also wish to commend you for continuing the measures that had been taken by your predecessors to improve the effectiveness of the methods of work of this Committee.

NAM continues to believe that the rationalization of the work of the Committee is a process, and should be continued in a transparent and comprehensive manner. We hope that it would be retained and be further developed in the forthcoming Sessions of the Committee.

We have noted that more states have participated in the general and thematic debates of the Committee than in previous years. Formulating a work programme of the Committee that includes panel discussions by independent experts and non-governmental organizations is something that needs to be maintained and further developed. We hope that these developments are positive indication of the growing relevance of the role and function of the First Committee to member states.

On the other side, however, we have witnessed this year, that certain delegation has completely changed its voting pattern against some resolutions which have traditionally been adopted without a vote, including the one that was sponsored by NAM.

As in the previous years, NAM had shown its constructive and positive outlook by submitting six draft resolutions for the consideration of the Committee. Those draft resolutions have received overwhelming support of member states, and some have been adopted without a vote. In this regard, NAM would like to extend its appreciation and gratitude to all the delegations that have supported these resolutions.

Madam Chair,

Let me also to take this opportunity, through you, Madam Chair, to express our appreciation to the members of the Bureau and to the Secretary of the Committee and his staff for all of their hard work and assistance during our session.

Finally, NAM remains committed to promoting international peace and security primarily through disarmament measures. We strongly believe that multilateralism and multilaterally agreed solutions, in accordance with the Charter of the United Nations, remain the only sustainable way to address disarmament and international security issues. It is our hope that multilateralism, within the framework of the United Nations, would provide much-needed impetus for moving forward the agenda of disarmament and non-proliferation in our endeavors next year.

Thank you, Madam Chair.