Statement by Non-Aligned Movement (NAM)

IAEA Board of Governors Meeting Vienna, Austria, 12 September 2003

On behalf of NAM, I would like to make the following comments on GOV/2003/68 dated 11 September 2003.

With regard to operative paragraphs 3 and 4, NAM members of the NPT believe that it goes beyond the spirit of the NPT and the policy of the Agency, which is based on "trust but verify" as it asks Iran to take action beyond the NPT and Additional Protocol provisions.

On operative paragraph 4, NAM believes that by putting the deadline at the end of October 2003, we are tying the Agency's hands by this date. More importantly, it also gives the wrong impression that Iran's co-operation is no longer required after this date.

On operative paragraph 4(ii), it is our view that a legal interpretation is required on the term "unrestricted access" with regard to Iran's compliance with its current Safeguards Agreements. As we all know, the term "unrestricted access" is not even used in the Additional Protocol.

It is NAM's considered view that the words "definitive conclusions" in operative Paragraph 7 of the GOV/2003/68 do not mean necessarily "final conclusions" but mean "appropriate or precise conclusions" and that this resolution is not intended to forestall or hinder the Agency's required activities in Iran before or after the November 2003 Board meeting for the Agency to bring all outstanding issues to a closure.

NAM welcomes the increased cooperation between the Agency and Iran and encourages Iran to continue intensifying this cooperation.

NAM has full confidence in the Director General and his ability to discharge his responsibilities in an impartial, effective and professional manner.

NAM is convinced that the matter shall be resolved peacefully within the Agency's mandate.

Finally, I would like the statement that I have just made to be fully reflected in the records of this meeting.