Mr. Chair,

Allow us to start our brief intervention by thanking you for your able leadership of this MSP, notwithstanding the daunting difficulties that have accompanied the position.

On several occasions in this Meeting, we have heard States Parties reaffirming their commitment to multilateralism, the linchpins of which have been constructive interaction, mutual trust and respect, whether between individual States or regional groups. Time and again, it has been proven that these principles are crucial to the successful achievement of our common objectives, including in this MSP.

We express concern at the rather unusual situation we are facing and manifest that we stand fully behind the nomination put forward by the NAM. We hope that this matter will not set a pattern or a binding precedent within the framework of our Convention, lest our reaffirmations to multilateral principles ring hollow. We call on all States Parties and regional groups to engage in other in a
transparent and constructive manner, striving towards reaching a consensual resolution to the issue.

We place our faith in your wisdom and guidance Mr. Chair, and hope that you will be able to show us a viable way forward that will allow us to resolve this situation.

I thank you.