

Mr. SLIPCHENCKO (Ukraine):

... Assessing the achievements of the current session, we should undoubtedly refer first of all to the adoption by the Conference of the landmark decision giving its Ad Hoc Committee on a Nuclear Test Ban a mandate to negotiate a comprehensive nuclear-test-ban treaty as a universal, internationally and effectively verifiable document. It is perfectly clear at this moment that the road leading to the eventual conclusion of a CTBT will be an arduous one, but it is equally evident that by having embarked upon it the Conference has reaffirmed its unique status as the most authoritative negotiating body on disarmament and international security.

This brings the Conference at least one step closer to the fulfilment of its ultimate mandate, which is to be reaffirmed as universal and complete disarmament. However distant and even elusive this goal might seem, it will never lose its moral allure of an historic challenge confronted by humanity. It is within this conceptual framework that we regard a CTBT as an extremely

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important instrument of the reinforcement of the international regime of non-proliferation and thus of raising the level of stability in the development of the entire system of international relations. I would say in this connection that the role of the Conference should not be perceived as the one of the guardian at the doors of the nuclear club. It should be always aware of its general mandate, which is reflected in the very name of the Conference on Disarmament.

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(Mr. Slipchencko, Ukraine)

... We are equally committed to being an active part of the multilateral effort to negotiate a CTBT, which has entered a practical phase, and to looking for new approaches in order to ensure progressive development on other issues and the efficient functioning of the Conference itself. Recent proposals tabled at this forum by the Special Coordinator, Ambassador O'Sullivan, could provide Ukraine and other countries with new opportunities in this respect. I hope that the Conference will not fail to submit to the General Assembly a consensus decision on this matter.