

5. During its previous session, the Ad Hoc Group completed a technical evaluation of its Second Technical Test (GSETT-2). The results are contained in its sixth main report, submitted to the Conference on Disarmament as document CD/1144. During the present session, the Group completed five appendices to the sixth report, containing detailed technical material.

6. The Group continued its discussions on the seismological evaluation of the GSETT-2 and reviewed national investigations relevant in this regard. Subsequently the Group discussed a draft outline of the evaluation report and agreed on focusing this report on the detection and location capabilities achieved during GSETT-2. The Group envisages a report on this evaluation during its next session.

7. The Ad Hoc Group conducted in-depth discussions on the reassessment of the concept of a global system for the exchange of seismic data worked out in its Fifth Report (CD/903), based on the results and experiences gained from GSETT-2 and on recent scientific and technological developments. The discussions were focused on the overall design of the system and provided a basis for the direction of the Group's future work.

8. The Group noted that many of the results and experiences obtained in GSETT-2 will be important in reassessing the system concept and its various components. Some of the conclusions the Group drew from GSETT-2 will have a significant influence on the overall design of the system, e.g.:

- the need to take into account information from local and regional seismic networks;
- the future use of only one IDC (International Data Centre) in the global system;
- the need for improved analysis procedures, with emphasis on automation especially for event definition, location and depth estimation;
- the need for a network with adequate global coverage of high-quality stations, especially arrays.

9. The Group noted that many countries had undertaken bilateral cooperation in upgrading data acquisition, communication and data exchange systems during the GSETT-2. The Group encourages this cooperation to continue as it would contribute significantly to the future improvement of the system.

10. Over the last decade, scientific and technological developments have been significant not only in seismology, but also in information technology, an area of great importance for global seismological monitoring systems. The Group firmly believes that the design of the global system should fully utilize recent developments in science and technology. The Group identified the following areas as being important for the overall system concept:

- the rapid developments in global telecommunications;