

Mr. President, it is my privilege to be able to address this Conference for the third time, and it is with great pleasure that I note the very considerable progress made in New York, Caracas and Geneva, and at the many inter-sessional meetings which have also been held. I take this occasion, Mr. President, to congratulate you, the Chairmen of the Committees and of the various informal working groups for the work which has been accomplished to date under their guidance. Much has been done, Mr. President, indeed much more has been done than many believed possible when the Conference convened over two years ago.

I note also with real gratification the very evident determination of delegates with whom I have had the honour of speaking to make every effort to bring the work of this Conference to a successful conclusion. This has been and will continue to be a very significant factor in the negotiating process. However, all too much remains to be done. On a variety of questions it is not yet clear whether a consensus can be reached. Mr. President, time is running out.