

(The President)

For its part, Egypt hopes that we can rapidly proceed to the adoption of a specific negotiating mandate for the Ad Hoc Committee and then go on to the negotiating phase on the basis of already existing drafts. In this respect we express our appreciation to the delegation of Sweden for the updated version of a draft comprehensive test-ban treaty contained in document CD/1202 and we will carefully study this draft. Egypt is prepared to make full use of the inter-sessional period so as to proceed as expeditiously as possible to that end.

(Mr. Benhima, Morocco)

... Here, two points seem to us to require attention: the nuclear test ban and security assurances against the use or threat of use of nuclear weapons. The conditions are now to hand for furnishing the Conference with the instruments needed to begin negotiations in these two areas of fundamental importance for the maintenance and reinforcement of the non-proliferation regime.

In this regard, my delegation welcomes the positive attitude of the major nuclear Powers, which say they are ready to take part in negotiations on a treaty to ban nuclear tests of all kinds. The impact such a treaty would have on the success of efforts to stop the qualitative improvement and proliferation of nuclear weapons is undeniable. My delegation hails the recent decision by the United States, France and Russia to extend the moratorium on nuclear testing. This decision will help to create a climate of confidence favourable to the opening of negotiations. The Conference, as the only multilateral body, is clearly the appropriate forum in which to conduct such negotiations. Hence my delegation welcomes the decision taken by the Conference on 10 August and hopes that the talks that the Chairman of the Ad Hoc Committee will hold during the inter-sessional period to hammer out the details of the Ad Hoc Committee's mandate will be successful.

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