

The PRESIDENT (translated from Arabic): I declare open the 663rd plenary meeting of the Conference on Disarmament.

... I wish to inform you that, as announced at the previous plenary meeting, I intend to propose to the Conference that it should consider taking action at the end of the meeting on the recommendation contained in paragraph 13 of the progress report of the Ad Hoc Group of Scientific Experts to Consider International Cooperative Measures to Detect and Identify Seismic Events, as well as the report of the Chairman of the open-ended consultations on the improved and effective functioning of the Conference, which has been circulated as document CD/WP.446.

(Mr. Lever, United Kingdom)

... In addition to concrete achievement in the field of nuclear arms control there is also the prospect of the achievement of a comprehensive test ban. The preamble of the NPT recalled the determination expressed by the parties to the limited test-ban treaty to seek an end to all nuclear tests. Momentum is now gathering towards the realization of this goal, a process in which the United Kingdom is ready to play a full and constructive part. We welcome the recent decision to give the Conference on Disarmament's Ad Hoc Committee on a Nuclear Test Ban a new mandate in preparation for these negotiations. We hope that the membership of the Conference on Disarmament can be expanded before substantive negotiations begin in the New Year. A carefully negotiated comprehensive test-ban treaty, to which all CD members are parties, will reinforce efforts to prevent the proliferation of nuclear weapons. We look forward to adding such a treaty to the list of achievements of the Conference

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on Disarmament itself. But our commitment to work constructively for a comprehensive test-ban treaty reflects our assumption that the non-proliferation Treaty will remain in force as well.