

conventional forces. It pointed out that contrary to the beliefs of some, even the most effective seismic monitoring system was only one element of effective verification. It reaffirmed that it would continue to deal with the question on the basis of a step-by-step approach. It welcomed the re-establishment of the Ad Hoc Committee with a non-negotiating mandate and stressed it would contribute fully as well as share the results of its research in relevant technologies.

18. Another Western nuclear weapon State stressed that, for its part as well, a comprehensive test ban remained a long-term objective, progress on which should be made on a step-by-step basis. It stressed that the vital element in achieving a comprehensive test ban would be the willingness of those who are currently testing to stop testing. It reiterated the three criteria it felt would be needed to be satisfied or which should be used in consideration as to whether or not a State currently wished to stop testing. They were: the degree of reliance on nuclear weapons for security; the relative importance of testing, among the techniques available, to ensure effectiveness and reliability of the residual nuclear weapon stocks at the time the test ban comes into force; and confidence in the effectiveness of a nuclear test ban treaty. It also welcomed the re-establishment of the Ad Hoc Committee and reiterated its willingness to contribute to its work in establishing the necessary components for an effective treaty.

19. Another nuclear weapon State, not member of any group, stated that it understood the urgent desire of the Third World countries and the non-nuclear-weapon States for a nuclear test ban at an early date. It reiterated the importance that it had attached to the issue of a nuclear test ban in the context of its continued stand in favour of the complete prohibition and thorough destruction of all nuclear weapons. It again repeated that in order to stop the nuclear arms race and achieve nuclear disarmament, the two States possessing the largest nuclear arsenals should take the lead in halting the development, production and deployment of all nuclear weapons and drastically reducing their nuclear arsenals. The same State welcomed the re-establishment of the Ad Hoc Committee, in which it had decided to participate, and confirmed that it would take an active part in its work.

20. Many delegations addressed the subject of structure and scope of a nuclear test ban treaty. Many delegations stressed the urgency of reaching agreement, while other delegations stressed again the need for a gradual approach to the achievement of a comprehensive ban. Many delegations stressed that the gradual approach to the elimination of nuclear weapons tests would not halt the modernization of nuclear weapons but rather legitimize the holding of such tests. Some other delegations pointed to the need for further discussion on the question of nuclear explosions for peaceful purposes. They also felt that such a treaty should ensure that the majority of nations should not be denied the full benefit of technological advancement in the nuclear field. Several delegations supported the idea that a moratorium on nuclear explosions for peaceful purposes be agreed upon until agreement was reached on the conditions under which such explosions could be carried out. It was suggested to bear in mind the idea that a comprehensive agreement could contain time frames for phasing out of all tests. A suggestion was made that a treaty should provide that no party cause,