

(Mr. Sodré, Brazil)

Brazil reiterates the importance and urgency that all participants in this Conference on Disarmament - in particular nuclear-weapon States - muster the essential political will to set in motion work on the crucial items on our agenda. I have in mind, inter alia, the prompt setting up of an ad hoc Committee - empowered with a negotiating mandate - to draft a comprehensive treaty to ban nuclear weapons tests, an exercise which I believe we are competent to pursue without further delay to a successful conclusion. I also have in mind the need to provide the Ad hoc Committee on the Prevention of an Arms Race in Outer Space with a specific mandate that would enable us to ensure - with the urgency that the matter requires - the utilization of that environment solely for peaceful purposes.

This was the inspiration for the words spoken by the President of my country, José Sarney, at the United Nations General Assembly in 1985, with which I would like to close this statement:

"We are at one of the many crossroads that have marked the 40-years of existence of the United Nations. The peoples are aware that concessions made to the realities of power are a one-way process. Only the united will of the majority to adopt a new attitude can remedy the scenario created by confrontation and by the mechanisms of power."