

2. At its 659th plenary meeting on 10 August 1993, the Conference adopted the following decision on agenda item 1 (CD/1212):

"The Conference on Disarmament,

Taking note of initiatives regarding the negotiation of a comprehensive nuclear test ban treaty (CTB),

Convinced that, to contribute effectively to the prevention of the proliferation of nuclear weapons in all its aspects, to the process of nuclear disarmament and therefore to the enhancement of international peace and security, a CTB should be universal and internationally and effectively verifiable,

Convinced further that, in order to achieve this goal, it is important that a CTB be multilaterally negotiated,

Stressing that, as the sole multilateral disarmament negotiating forum of the international community, it is the appropriate forum for negotiating a CTB,

Decides to give its Ad Hoc Committee on a Nuclear Test Ban a mandate to negotiate a CTB;

Requests the Chairman of its Ad Hoc Committee on a Nuclear Test Ban to make the necessary arrangements to conduct consultations during the period between 3 September 1993 and 17 January 1994 on the specific mandate for, and the organization of, the negotiation."

3. At the same meeting, the Chairman of the Ad Hoc Committee announced that he would proceed without delay to make the necessary arrangements for the consultations he was requested to conduct by the Conference.

II. ORGANIZATION OF WORK AND DOCUMENTATION

4. At the 639th plenary meeting on 28 January 1993, the Conference on Disarmament appointed Ambassador Yoshitomo Tanaka of Japan as Chairman of the Ad Hoc Committee. Mr. Michael Cassandra of the United Nations Office for Disarmament Affairs served as Secretary.

5. As it had announced in May 1992, the delegation of France participated for the first time in the work of the Ad Hoc Committee. France's decision to participate was widely welcomed in the Ad Hoc Committee.

6. In accordance with the decision of the Conference adopted at its 603rd plenary meeting on 22 August 1991, the Ad Hoc Committee was open to all the non-member States invited by the Conference to participate in its work.

7. The Ad Hoc Committee held 19 meetings from 18 February to 24 August 1993. In addition, the Chairman conducted a number of informal consultations with delegations.