

(The President)

and an appeal to everybody to try to reach the decision. However, that is life and even more so the business of negotiation, and the way things have worked out we now have the decision and I have, of course, had to change my statement again.

Today, our presidency of the Conference on Disarmament comes to an end. During this period there have been events that I consider to be of importance for the Conference and for the interests of our countries. I am referring to the positive developments concerning item 1 of the agenda of the Conference, the total ending of nuclear tests. I hope that the stimulus given in this respect by the important political decisions adopted by a number of nuclear countries, by the result that we have attained, and by the intensive negotiations will swiftly bear fruit with the conclusion in this forum of a new internationally verifiable multilateral agreement that will attract universal accession.

The favourable negotiating climate as regards item 1 of our agenda has enabled us to adopt today an important decision that will unquestionably help to further the achievement of our objectives and hopes in this respect. It has also enabled us to decide to issue an invitation, at a date to be decided later, to a representative of the International Atomic Energy Agency, who will engage in exchanges with delegations on the possibility that the Agency will one day play a role in the verification of a comprehensive test-ban treaty.