

Mr. O'SULLIVAN (Australia): First of all, Mr. President, I would like to thank you for the energy and the determination that you have shown over the last weeks to bring us to this very satisfactory and very happy outcome that we have achieved this morning, and I think that, although you are suitably modest, you were also not really entirely accurate in excusing yourself from a central and very happy role in this outcome and I thank you. I should also like to thank my colleagues from Mexico and Nigeria for allowing the Australian delegation to work with them in the early stages of the deliberations which led up to our decision this morning and I would also like to thank the other delegations around the room who in various ways and at various points showed flexibility that is reflected in our document. It is a good example of how this Conference can work effectively. As others have said, I believe this decision we have taken will send a powerful political signal of our collective determinations to get on with the work that many of us have been looking forward to for so long. It also demonstrates again in a very clear way the utility of this forum as a negotiating body that can, with determination, attack the problems before it. So, we see this as the start of a journey that many of us have been awaiting impatiently for a long time and the signal that we are starting it is something that we entirely welcome. To assure the last speaker, the Ambassador of Japan, Australia will be ready whenever he is, to commence collaboration with him to start the consultations that are mandated in the last part of our decision.

Mr. KAMAL (Pakistan): Mr. President, we have taken an important decision today which is the first step towards an objective to which many have aspired for several years. I would like to assure you that in the follow-up of this decision over the coming months and year, you will have the full support and cooperation of the Pakistan delegation for an objective to which Pakistan is fully committed.

Mr. ADEKEYE (Nigeria): My delegation wishes to place on record its satisfaction that the Conference has been able to adopt this historic decision. I therefore wish to congratulate you, Mr. President, for the efforts in ensuring that the Conference has been able to reach consensus on this decision. Finally, I wish to pledge our full support to the distinguished Ambassador of Japan, the Chairman of the Ad Hoc Committee, in his task ahead.

The PRESIDENT (translated from Spanish): As we agreed in the informal meeting a few minutes ago, and pursuant to rule 41 of our rules of procedure, I shall transmit to the Director-General of IAEA the communication that was distributed today.

I have no further business to deal with in this plenary meeting. Permit me, then, to make my closing statement at the conclusion of Cuba's presidency.

I have to say before I read my text that this is a statement that I have had to redraft and to which I have had to make a number of changes, sometimes on a positive note and at others with what, I felt, had to be some pessimism