

(Mr. Errera, France)

in so far as that is our objective, we have always felt that a test-ban treaty must be universal, by which I mean not only as regards accession, but also as regards participation, the involvement from the outset of all the players, and secondly that it must be really and internationally verifiable in order to be genuinely deterrent. The second point that we felt to be essential and that is contained in the decision that we have just taken concerns the negotiating forum. We, like many others - I would say like everyone, have made it very clear from the outset that, for the objective we have set ourselves to be attainable, the treaty must be negotiated multilaterally and, as the Conference on Disarmament is the international community's sole negotiating body and is representative of the international community where disarmament is concerned, it is logical that it should be the negotiating forum; that, too, is contained in the document. We are also pleased that a clear signal has been given to the Ad Hoc Committee amending its negotiating mandate as regards principles. That corresponds to the wish expressed by Ambassador O'Sullivan for the giving of a signal, a clear political symbol; that has been done in the penultimate paragraph. That is what I would call a decision of principle, one free from conditions, even though, as stated in the last paragraph of the document, consultations are naturally to be held to determine the contents, the details of the mandate. Those are the reasons for our satisfaction. As for the role of the five nuclear Powers, I will simply repeat what we have always said, namely that consultations between the five nuclear Powers in Geneva, in parallel with the negotiations in the Conference - that is to say, at the same time and on the same topics, will certainly be of use.

Mrs. CARVALHO DE PLASA (Mexico) (translated from Spanish): It is with a feeling of great satisfaction that I am taking the floor in this plenary meeting and this time I have not prepared any statement, so I shall be extremely brief. We have taken the first step in a process that started 30 years ago and that we celebrated some days ago, and we are now in a position to complete a peace process to which we are all dedicated. For that reason, because of the decision which you have just put before us and which our Coordinator rightly qualified as historic, allow me to express our sincerest thanks to you, Mr. President, for your efforts and to those who made their contribution in the consultations which finally produced the result that we now have and all welcome.

Mr. TANAKA (Japan): My delegation welcomes the decision just adopted to give a mandate to negotiate the CTB. I, as the Chairman of the Ad Hoc Committee on NTB, feel greatly honoured at having been entrusted with the important task by this decision. I am intending to start my preparations immediately to implement this decision and I shall do my best and hope that all the delegations will cooperate fully for the smooth preparation of the CTB negotiations.