

(Mr. Dubois, Canada)

and effective CTBT. The final agreement must be open to signature by all and contain strong verification procedures. This process would, in our view, increase in credibility and international acceptance if the CD could agree to expand its membership to include all those wishing to be members of the CD and ultimately party to the CTBT.

Canada is pleased with the positive and constructive responses of the other nuclear-weapons States to President Clinton's important initiative. We also urge them to continue their existing moratoria on nuclear testing. There is no reason why we cannot launch these negotiations now and my Government supports initiatives to review at an early stage the mandate of the NTB Ad Hoc Committee in order for it to negotiate a CTB. We are now engaged in the NPT extension process and an early start of CTB negotiations would give an important psychological boost to a successful NPT Review and Extension Conference in 1995.

On 3 June 1993, our Swedish colleagues made a valuable contribution through their tabling of a revised version of a draft CTBT, which builds upon CD/1089 of 25 July 1991. In our view, the Swedish papers provide focus to certain key issues, while recognizing that many details will need to be filled in once negotiations get under way. It is always useful to have at hand a significant body of relevant information to facilitate the negotiations, especially when this includes a vision of what the end-product might comprise.

There is, of course, a wealth of material upon which to draw. All of the attention now being directed to non-seismic technologies, and to their potential to play a supportive role in a verification regime, can only be helpful to the elaboration of a treaty that can be effectively verified. The Canadian position is that the elements of any verification regime are already very well-defined, based on the work of the GSE, and could be put in place within a reasonable period of time.

In this regard, we note that the last GSE report to the CD (CD/1185, 2 March 1993), based on earlier tests and their evaluations, elaborated a concept of a system for international seismic data exchange which would provide States with data and information to meet their national CTB verification needs. The GSE is now moving through the design stage with the aim of beginning global testing of the proposed concept at an early date.

Canada fully supports this effort by the GSE and its contributing participants. In our understanding, this would not be another test to compile data along the lines of the two others that have already taken place in 1984 and 1991. It would, in fact, constitute the initial phase of establishing the architecture that could then be called upon to serve the needs of a CTB treaty.