

10. Members of the Group of 21 stressed again the urgent and crucial need for, and the high priority it has always attached, to putting an end to nuclear testing. They reiterated that a nuclear test ban would make a significant contribution to the aim of halting and reversing the nuclear arms race and nuclear disarmament. It again stressed that the Conference on Disarmament, as the single multilateral negotiating body on such issues, had the primary role in negotiations on a nuclear test ban. The Group pointed to the numerous documents adopted unanimously by the United Nations, including the Final Document of the first special session of the General Assembly devoted to disarmament. They also referred to the relevant part of the Declaration of the Heads of State or Government of the Non-Aligned Summit in Belgrade. They maintained that despite the recent upturn in the world political climate, there had been no let up in the qualitative improvement in nuclear weapons. The Group underlined the flexibility it had demonstrated over the years with respect to the re-establishment of the Ad Hoc Committee and considered it essential that the Ad Hoc Committee's setting up this year lead to concrete negotiations towards a comprehensive nuclear test ban treaty on an urgent basis. The Partial Test Ban Treaty of 1963 has prohibited nuclear weapon testing in the atmosphere, outer space and under water. The Group remained convinced that the available techniques of national and international verification were already sufficient to conclude a treaty on a nuclear test ban which should aim at the general and complete cessation of nuclear weapon tests by all States, in all environments, for all times. Thus it felt that the work of the Ad Hoc Committee should not get bogged down in peripheral exercises of a work programme or debate on verification pre-requisites while the central issue of negotiating a treaty on a nuclear test ban remains unresolved.

11. Some delegations of this Group believed the Ad Hoc Committee should take into account concrete proposals already presented to the Conference, specifically pointing to the draft treaties proposed by Sweden and the USSR in 1983. Many delegations of the Group emphasized that the fact that the mandate of the Committee indicated that the four elements of structure, scope, verification and compliance are interrelated precluded any selective approach and therefore called for substantive consideration of each of them in an harmonious and simultaneous manner. It was also suggested that the Ad Hoc Committee consider the need for harmonization between its work and the bilateral USSR/United States process on nuclear testing. Some delegations of this Group also stressed the complementarity between the work in the Conference on Disarmament on agenda item 1 and the holding of the Conference of the States Parties to the Partial Test Ban Treaty for the purpose of converting it into a comprehensive ban. Some members of the Group underscored the positive impact the re-establishment of the Ad Hoc Committee would have on the 4th Review Conference of the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty in August-September this year. Several delegations called for a moratorium on nuclear testing during the course of the Conference's work on the item. It was also suggested that negotiations on a nuclear test ban should duly take into account the question of the peaceful nuclear explosions and for that purpose it was suggested that a review of all background information should be conducted. One delegation belonging to Group of 21 stated that as early as in 1954 it had called for a standstill agreement on the suspension of nuclear weapon tests pending agreement on control and production of nuclear weapons. Had this agreement been achieved earlier,