

Mr. DALMAN (Chairman, Ad Hoc Group of Scientific Experts): I am pleased to report today on the recent session of the Ad Hoc Group, held from 26 July to 6 August 1993, and to introduce the Group's progress report, which is contained in document CD/1211.

The session was attended by experts and representatives from 29 countries. The broad participation in the group, with translation into all United Nations languages and an increased amount of working documents, put an increased burden on the secretariat. The Group appreciates the efforts by all concerned to cope with this situation.

Mr. President, let me at this time join in the words of appreciation that you expressed to Mr. Michael Cassandra, who is leaving Geneva today, for the outstanding contribution he has made over the years to the work of the Group of Scientific Experts.

Before commenting on the progress report, it might be appropriate at this moment to briefly summarize the GSE activities. The Group of Scientific Experts was established by the CCD in 1976 to consider international cooperative measures to detect and identify seismic events. Through its initial work, the Ad Hoc Group established the basic principles and the general structure for the international exchange of seismological data for monitoring purposes. The guiding principles and the general structure have remained essentially unchanged despite the almost revolutionary technical development of the system that has taken place.

The system has consisted since its beginning of a global network of seismological stations connected through national data centres to an

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