

Mr. LAMPREIA (Brazil):

... There is an obvious need under present world conditions to proceed to a revision of the conceptual basis of the policies that support the existence of nuclear weapons and, as a corollary, the improvement of existing nuclear arsenals. The constructive attitude taken by nuclear-weapon States in extending their moratoria on nuclear tests shows that there is an accrued sensitivity to these issues. In the last few years the Conference was able to concentrate efforts on the elaboration of the chemical weapons Convention, without detriment to negotiations in other areas. Recent developments and the positive mood prevailing have made it clear to my delegation that the same procedure should now be applied to the elaboration of a comprehensive nuclear-test-ban treaty. In this regard we believe that we should set a target date for the conclusion of the CTBT. The timetable first suggested by Ambassador O'Sullivan in the 29 July plenary, although ambitious, seems to be a good proposition. In order to expedite our work and to make a target date feasible, there is an obvious need to give a broad negotiating mandate to the Ad Hoc Committee on CTB. There is also a need for the consultations with which its Chairman, Ambassador Tanaka, has been entrusted to provide a comprehensive proposal containing not only the mandate but also well-defined working procedures for the Ad Hoc Committee.

Mr. BERNHARSEN (Norway):

... The Conference on Disarmament has discussed expansion of its membership for more than 10 years without being able to come to an agreement. My delegation was therefore pleased to see the results of Ambassador O'Sullivan's delicate consultations, which for the second time put Norway on a list of possible new members. We are indeed honoured to be invited to join the CD as full members. My country has on many occasions declared our readiness to take on the responsibilities that follow from full membership. The CD is shortly to engage in crucial negotiations on a nuclear test ban. We believe that the CD would have benefited from a broader membership in these as well as in other important subjects on the CD's agenda. Norway, we are sure, could make substantial contributions to these negotiations. Obviously my delegation as well as my authorities in Oslo are greatly disappointed at seeing yet another opportunity slip away for reaching agreement on an expansion of the CD. We believe the package proposed by Ambassador O'Sullivan under the circumstances may be the closest possible to a consensus and that this indeed is a unique opportunity to achieve a most overdue expansion of the Conference. My delegation still hopes that a solution could be found in the hours remaining of this session.