

Welcoming also in addition the recent decision of the United States of America to implement a testing moratorium accompanied by a plan for achieving a multilateral, comprehensive ban on the testing of nuclear weapons,

Welcoming further the decision of the Russian Federation to extend its earlier-announced nuclear-testing moratorium,

Convinced that an end to nuclear testing by all States in all environments for all time is an essential step in order to prevent the qualitative improvement and development of nuclear weapons and their further proliferation and to contribute, along with other concurrent efforts to reduce nuclear arms, to the eventual elimination of nuclear weapons,

Noting the concerns expressed about the environmental and health risks associated with underground nuclear testing, as brought out in the Expert Study on Questions Related to a Comprehensive Test Ban Treaty in CD/1167 of 14 August 1992, which noted, inter alia, the environmental benefits and economic savings to be derived from a complete ban on nuclear testing,

Convinced also that the most effective way to achieve an end to nuclear testing is through the conclusion, at an early date, of a verifiable, comprehensive nuclear-test-ban treaty that will attract the adherence of all States,

Taking into account the undertakings by the original parties to the 1963 Treaty Banning Nuclear Weapon Tests in the Atmosphere, in Outer Space and under Water 1/ to seek to achieve the early discontinuance of all test explosions of nuclear weapons for all time, and also noting the reiteration of this commitment in the 1968 Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons, 2/

Noting with satisfaction the work being undertaken within the Conference on Disarmament by the Ad Hoc Group of Scientific Experts to Consider International Cooperative Measures to Detect and Identify Seismic Events, and in this context welcoming the results of the second technical test concerning the global exchange and analysis of seismic data, which will permit the system to be redesigned in the light of this experience,

Recalling that the Amendment Conference of States Parties to the Treaty Banning Nuclear Weapon Tests in the Atmosphere, in Outer Space and under Water was held in New York from 7 to 18 January 1991,

Expressing its disappointment that the Conference on Disarmament was unable to re-establish the Ad Hoc Committee on item 1 of its agenda, entitled "Nuclear test ban", despite the improved political climate,

1. Reaffirms its conviction that a treaty to achieve the prohibition of all nuclear-test explosions by all States in all environments for all time is a matter of priority which would constitute an essential step in order to prevent the qualitative improvement and development of nuclear weapons and their further proliferation, and which would contribute to the process of nuclear disarmament;

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1/ United Nations, Treaty Series, vol. 480, No. 6964.

2/ Ibid., vol. 729, No. 10485.