

9. Mr. SENE (Senegal), introducing document NPT/CONF.III/32 on behalf of the Group of Non-Aligned and Neutral States, said that the working paper took account of the Group's views on article VI - which was the fundamental element of the Treaty and was designed to guarantee its successful operation - and should therefore provide a good basis for discussion. The paper reflected the diversity of opinions expressed within the Group, taking account of its members' geopolitical situation and of their dedication to the principles of non-alignment neutralism, the desire of all to preserve their national integrity and independence, and their strong sense of international solidarity in the cause of world peace and security.

10. The first of the paper's three sections - section I - recalled the obligations of all States parties and their will to put an end to all test explosions of nuclear weapons for all time and to promote international détente and the strengthening of trust between States. The paper's authors expressed the wish that the nuclear-weapon States should, as soon as possible, enter into an agreement open to all States providing for the halting of all nuclear-weapon tests for a specified time with a view to their permanent cessation. They stressed the need for all States parties to work through the United Nations, the Conference on Disarmament and other competent negotiating forums towards the conclusion of arms limitation and disarmament agreements which would contribute to the goal of general and complete disarmament under strict and effective international control.

11. Section II of the working paper dealt with the nuclear arms race and the nuclear disarmament. It contained a critical assessment of the quantitative and qualitative development of nuclear arms over the past decade and of various aspects of vertical nuclear proliferation. It emphasized the concern aroused by the research and development component of military spending, the continuation of nuclear tests, and space defence programmes. The section also contained a historical review of talks between the two super-Powers, which had produced hardly any results, although the new round of talks could nevertheless constitute a positive development, and recalled that the Conference on Disarmament had achieved no progress in the matter of the cessation of the nuclear arms race and the prevention of nuclear war or of security guarantees to non-nuclear-weapon States.

12. The last section - Section III - contained basic proposals and a reaffirmation of commitment to the implementation of article VI and the tenth preambular paragraph of the Treaty. The Group of Non-Aligned and Neutral States expressed the wish that the Conference on Disarmament should serve as the framework for the initiation of negotiations on nuclear disarmament and on the adoption of adequate verification measures, as well as the prompt conclusion of a comprehensive test-ban treaty.

13. In addition to the establishment of an immediate moratorium on all nuclear-weapon tests which should facilitate the conclusion of such a treaty, the Group advocated an immediate freeze on nuclear arsenals with a view to halting the arms race and the deployment of nuclear weapons, as well as the progressive reduction of stockpiles of nuclear weapons and their means of

delivery leading to their complete elimination at the earliest possible time. Lastly, it urged the United States of America and the Soviet Union to pursue their bilateral negotiations on strategic and intermediate-range arms so as to complement multilateral agreements on disarmament.

14. The Group hoped that the working paper would reconcile all the interests involved and that its components would be taken into account in the final document on the Committee's work. The implementation of article VI was indeed crucial to the viability of the Treaty, but it was necessary to learn from past experience and avoid confrontation and sterile polemics so as to give careful attention to arms control measures in accordance with the provisions of the Treaty.

15. Mr. MIYAMOTO (Japan) said that the Treaty rested on three main principles which could not be dissociated from one another, namely the prevention of nuclear proliferation, the right to peaceful use of nuclear energy, and nuclear disarmament. So far as arms control and disarmament were concerned, Japan regarded the achievement of the comprehensive test-ban treaty as a priority measure and had therefore taken an active part in the work of the Conference on Disarmament on that subject. In June 1984, Mr. Abe, his country's Foreign Minister, had proposed in the Conference on Disarmament a step-by-step approach taking underground nuclear-test explosions of a yield now considered technically verifiable on a multinational basis as the threshold. That threshold would subsequently be lowered as verification capability improved. His delegation had also submitted two supplementary working papers (CD/524 and CD/626).

16. However, during the past two years the Conference on Disarmament had been unable to establish an ad hoc committee on a nuclear test ban owing to persisting differences of view on the mandate of such a body, and work had therefore remained at a standstill. It should be resumed as soon as possible, for much remained to be done. Many vital issues had to be solved and many valuable proposals considered before a treaty could be elaborated.

17. His delegation strongly hoped that at its next session the Conference on Disarmament would solve the problem of the mandate and would be able to resume consideration of substantive issues. It highly appreciated the contributions by the Ad Hoc Group of Scientific Experts to Consider International Co-operative Measures to Detect and Identify Seismic Events, whose work should be continued and strengthened, and hoped that the point would be duly reflected in the final document.

18. Mr. LUNDBO (Norway) drew attention to the memorandum containing several proposals submitted by the Nordic countries (NPT/CONF.III/16). Those relevant to the work of Committee I concerned the bilateral negotiations on nuclear and space arms between the United States and the Soviet Union, a comprehensive test-ban treaty, and "negative" security assurances.

19. His delegation regretted that no major breakthrough had taken place in nuclear disarmament since the Second Review Conference. However, the starting of negotiations on nuclear and space arms between the United States and the