

Unofficial transcript
His Excellency Mr. Blaise Compaore,
President of Burkina Faso
(spoke in French)

Today's Security Council meeting is addressing a major issue concerning current challenges in the area of non-proliferation and nuclear disarmament. This is a timely meeting in the light of the numerous enormous potential risks for the planet's destruction. I would therefore like to convey to you, Mr. President, as well as to the entire delegation of the United States, my gratitude for having taking the initiative to hold this debate.

International security requires a cessation of nuclear tests and the elimination of all nuclear arsenals. In that regard, Burkina Faso calls for strict adherence to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons. The irreversible and devastating effects of nuclear weapons should be a source of additional motivation for all of us.

Collective security entails respect by all for international norms and the values of justice and equity. It also requires that we consider the following issues in depth: How are we to dissuade States from renouncing the acquisition of weapons of mass

destruction when other countries are developing nuclear programmes and carrying out tests? How can we contemplate a civilian nuclear programme without causing suspicion and mistrust? How can we prevent nuclear material from falling into careless and irresponsible hands? The possession of and illicit trafficking in nuclear, biological and chemical weapons by non-State actors and terrorist groups pose a real threat for all humankind.

It is therefore important to combine and intensify our efforts to ensure the effective implementation of the measures that have been adopted to combat this scourge. Our collective responsibility is clearly involved here. We must fully assume that responsibility courageously and with perseverance. Mobilization by all States, regional and subregional organizations, civil society and opinion-makers is essential. The fair, transparent and responsible implementation of resolutions will help to reduce antagonism and tension and, above all, to restore trust between all countries.

Likewise, more rational use of such instruments and mechanisms as the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons, the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty and the Conference on Disarmament will contribute to making the world a safer place.

Mr. President, your dedication to building a world free from nuclear dangers and the process begun between the United States of America and the Russian Federation augur well for the success of the ongoing negotiations on reducing the nuclear arsenals of both countries.

The establishment of the International Atomic Energy Agency responded to the need to protect the world from the harmful use of the atom and to benefit from nuclear energy for peaceful purposes. Now more than ever, we must commit ourselves to that goal, support the Agency and make civilian nuclear energy - to which all States have a right - an effective tool for development. That is the will that justified the 1996 adoption of the Treaty of Pelindaba, establishing a nuclear-weapon-free zone in Africa. In the context of the energy crisis, African States should thus be given an opportunity to gain access to nuclear energy for civilian purposes.

The question of nuclear non-proliferation and disarmament is at the heart of the problems related to the maintenance of international peace and security. The Security Council has a particular role to play in that regard. In accordance with the Charter of the United Nations, it must assume that role with objectivity and effectiveness.

Mr. President, aware of the force of your convictions, your personal commitment to multilateralism, your opinions and your courageous initiatives on the problems of disarmament, I remain convinced that you will be able to assume the leadership necessary for the implementation of the outcome of our work. I can assure you of the full cooperation of Burkina Faso in that regard.