

(Mr. Morel, France)

which have been reaffirmed by many delegations here at the Conference on Disarmament since the beginning of the session. However, from the viewpoint of the Chair, we should not misjudge the present situation. The involvement of a larger number of delegations and the detailed consideration of all aspects of the future convention constitute necessary groundwork for tangible and suitable progress. The Committee - and I mean all delegations as well as the Chairman of the Committee, the chairmen of the groups and the secretariat - has worked in an unprecedented way, I think one can say, and thereby it is taking fully into account the resolutions of the General Assembly of the United Nations and the Final Declaration of the Paris Conference. Subjects which had been somewhat pushed aside have been taken up again. New topics have been introduced or developed, for the first time in the case of some of them. Others, high on the agenda for several years, have been subjected to intensive consideration. Furthermore, more than half of the delegations in the Conference on Disarmament - I think this must be stressed and re-emphasized - have been involved in the demanding work of carrying out national trial inspections. There has thus been considerable mobilization of delegations, but this cannot of course be an end in itself. The new pace and the new methods of work are necessary stages which should lead to real progress, and this will be the goal of the second part of the 1989 session. All the members of the Committee can now concentrate their attention in the most specific way on clearly identified difficulties and prepare themselves thoroughly for the search for suitable solutions. As has been the case since the beginning of the session, this will need careful scheduling of the Committee's work. The tentative programme submitted yesterday in the Ad hoc Committee for indicative purposes gives a first outline. It will be formally introduced at the beginning of the next part of the session in a revised and enlarged version incorporating delegations' reactions and suggestions, and it will then be submitted to the Committee for its approval. In the Chair's opinion, the co-operative attitude of the delegations that took part in the Committee's work is an encouraging sign for the second part of the session and should lead, especially in view of the very little time available, to even greater willingness during the summer. After covering very extensively the topics identified in CD/CW/WP.222, which is the Ad hoc Committee's work programme for 1989, the time has come to get down to intensive negotiations in earnest. In conformity with the Paris Declaration, the Committee has redoubled its efforts as a matter of urgency. It should now be ready to resolve expeditiously the remaining issues and to conclude the convention at the earliest date.

I would now like to put to the Conference some more specific thoughts about the method of work that we have taken up. There are three points. Firstly, the conversion of the results of the Paris Conference on the prohibition of chemical weapons into real progress in the negotiations cannot be immediate. It is difficult to get some 40 delegations, plus more than 20 delegations of countries which are non-members of the Conference on Disarmament to move still faster. Everyone has his own contribution to make, and that is natural. It should also be noted that the complexity of the treaty is considerable and inevitable. Moreover, we have witnessed a degree of change of perspective, with a greater concern for universality and a better over-view of what is at stake in the convention. Therefore it was necessary and it is necessary, to intensify our efforts, with more participants and more subjects to cover.