

(Mr. Sujka, Poland)

working group on the cessation of the nuclear arms race and nuclear disarmament. Together with the delegations of other socialist countries, my delegation has actively participated in this Committee in all debates and in the preparation of the appropriate documents on this agenda item, starting with document CD/4 at the beginning of existence of the Committee on Disarmament in its present form. We shall continue to do so with a deep conviction that the establishment of the working group would constitute the next and necessary step forward in fulfilling the Committee's mandate on this agenda item.

I would like to support the draft mandate for the working group just proposed by the distinguished representative of the German Democratic Republic.

It is equally so with the question of the complete and general prohibition of nuclear-weapon tests. The Committee should not delay any longer the establishment of the ad hoc working group on this item, in accordance with the General Assembly resolutions that have been adopted in the last several years and, most recently, resolutions 36/84 and 36/92 F. We should, indeed, bear in mind the fact that, as stated in General Assembly resolution 36/84, "... since 1972 ... all the technical and scientific aspects of the problem have been so fully explored that only a political decision is now necessary ...". It is deplorable that, as emphasized in the reports from its last year's session and in the above-mentioned General Assembly resolution the Committee on Disarmament was prevented from responding to the general wish for the establishment of an ad hoc working group on this item only as a result of the negative attitude of two nuclear-weapon States. The working group should be established without any further delay and should consider all the aspects of the problem of nuclear-weapon tests and aim at the early elaboration of the text of a treaty on the complete and general prohibition of nuclear-weapon tests.

Speaking on the complex problem of the cessation of the nuclear arms race, I must touch on the question of nuclear neutron weapons. In its resolution 36/92 K, the General Assembly requested this Committee "to start without delay negotiations in an appropriate organizational framework with a view to concluding a convention on the prohibition of the production, stockpiling, deployment and use of nuclear neutron weapons". My delegation believes that the best organizational framework for elaborating such a convention would be an ad hoc working group which could be established by this Committee. We have at our disposal a comparatively good background for such an exercise: the draft convention submitted by the group of socialist countries to the Conference of the Committee on Disarmament and a broad exchange of views on the subject matter which could be continued and deepened in the working group.

With regard to the agenda items on which we concentrated our efforts last year in the work of the working groups, I would like to present the views of my delegation on chemical weapons and the comprehensive programme on disarmament.

With regard to chemical weapons, we note with great concern the news of dangerous developments in the chemical arms race. The United States Government is making preparations for the production of a new generation of chemical weapons, specifically binary weapons. As the members of the Committee are aware, we have so far not been able to start concrete negotiations on the draft text of a chemical weapons convention. This was so mainly because of the position of at least one delegation which favoured a rather limited mandate for the Ad Hoc Working Group