

(Mr. Erdembilig, Mongolia)

set up in which intensive work is being done. In a businesslike and constructive atmosphere, two weeks ago, the Chairman of the Ad Hoc Working Group held consultations with experts on a number of technical questions, in which 35 specialists from 23 countries took part. All this bears witness to the priority importance which delegations attach to the speediest possible solution in the Committee of the question of the complete prohibition and destruction of chemical weapons.

My delegation does not intend at this stage to sum up the present state of the work in the Working Group on Chemical Weapons. I should like merely to refer to something which we consider very important. As has frequently been observed here, as a result of the careful and thorough consideration of chemical weapons problems, there now exist all the conditions for real progress in the negotiations on the prohibition of chemical weapons. We believe that various things have contributed to this situation, foremost among them being the submission by the Soviet Union of a new document entitled, "Basic provisions of a convention on the prohibition of the development, production and stockpiling of chemical weapons and on their destruction", which contains quite a number of new elements relating to the solution of the most complicated issues. The Mongolian delegation would like to express the hope that the other partners in the negotiations will also take responsible steps towards the accomplishment of this difficult but vitally necessary task in the sphere of genuine disarmament.

In view of the pressing and urgent need to achieve agreement in the field of the prohibition of chemical weapons, and of the signs of progress which are becoming apparent in the negotiations, the Mongolian delegation supports the proposal that agreement should be reached on an indicative date for the conclusion of the drafting of the convention. We also consider that at this stage the Ad Hoc Working Group could conclude its work on the preparation and submission to the Committee of a composite text of a draft of the future convention by the end of this session. We believe that for this purpose the Working Group should be given the necessary additional time to enable it to conclude its work with the best possible results.

In conclusion allow me to make some comments concerning the establishment of an ad hoc working group on the question of the prevention of an arms race in outer space.

According to its programme of work, in the fifth week of this part of its session, the Committee on Disarmament will proceed to discuss agenda item 7.

During both the spring and the summer parts of the Committee's session, almost all delegations have spoken in favour of the creation of an ad hoc working group. There was a general understanding in the Committee on the setting up of this subsidiary body. In order to facilitate the speediest possible adoption of a formal decision on this question, during the first part of the session the Mongolian delegation formally submitted a draft mandate for the Ad Hoc Working Group for consideration by the Committee and proposed that consultations should be held with a view to reaching agreement on the text.

As you know, so far no specific comments have been made on the draft mandate we put forward, nor have any amendments or additions to it been suggested.