

(The President)

... In this context, during six months of intensive work certain steps and developments have been made in the Conference. As to the specific, immediate results that have been achieved, it must be recognized, as many people have already pointed out, that the session has been frustrating in some ways, whether as regards the negotiations on the draft convention on the prohibition of chemical weapons, or with respect to all the nuclear disarmament issues, the prevention of an arms race in outer space or other important items on the Conference's agenda.

I would like to confine myself to a few points concerning possibilities and constructive, forwarding-looking approaches. With respect to the negotiations on a convention for the prohibition and elimination of chemical weapons, following a focusing of effort which warranted more significant results, it remains for us to hope that, since we now have a better knowledge of the key issues remaining to be resolved and the interests and positions that have to be taken into account, we shall be able, with the necessary political will, to make substantial progress in the near future. With respect to nuclear issues, maximum advantage must be taken of the steps made towards the elaboration of a more structured framework for a substantive debate - I am referring, of course, to the Ad hoc Committee on a Nuclear Test Ban and the special informal meetings on agenda items 2 and 3. In this context, we should note in particular the idea repeatedly expressed here recently that care and action should be taken to maintain and in as far as possible consolidate the consensus on the establishment and operation of an ad hoc committee on item 1 of the Conference's agenda. Generally speaking, providing a framework for consideration and, as appropriate, negotiation on all the questions on the agenda of the Conference must be a priority concern in the future too.