

(Mr. Ijewere, Nigeria)

While it is true that we have many urgent problems to deal with, it is the view of my delegation that there is an ascending order of urgency. For psychological reasons it might be necessary to concentrate on those areas where success is more likely and in this regard the negotiations to ban chemical weapons come readily to mind. It is, therefore, the view of my delegation that we should not lose the momentum already acquired in the process of negotiating a chemical weapons ban. While we believe in the psychological advantage of trying to achieve success where it is more likely, we are convinced, like the rest of mankind, that the most urgent task before us is nuclear disarmament. Because of their devastating and indiscriminate effect, nuclear weapons can hardly be regarded primarily as weapons of war. They are essentially weapons of genocide and mass killing. The intended targets of nuclear weapons are not the combatants in the field but the civilian population. This was demonstrated in Hiroshima and Nagasaki. It is, therefore, our hope that the Ad Hoc Working Group on a Nuclear Test Ban will start its work as soon as possible, with a wider mandate covering not only verification but also the scope of an agreement.

(Mr. Terrefe, Ethiopia)

As regards the Ad Hoc Working Group on Chemical Weapons, useful work has already been done. The Ethiopian delegation would like to emphasize the necessity for the earliest possible conclusion of a convention on the prohibition of the development, production and stockpiling of all chemical weapons and their destruction. While some outstanding issues pertaining to the scope of the future convention and its verification require intensified negotiations and greater flexibility by all, it would be highly essential and imperative not to further complicate the present negotiations by pursuing the development and production of new types of chemical weapons. In this respect, resolution 37/98 A adopted by the United Nations General Assembly deserves attention. In its operative paragraph 5, the resolution "reaffirms its call to all States to refrain from any action that could impede negotiations on the prohibition of chemical weapons and specifically to refrain from the production and deployment of binary and other new types of chemical weapons, as well as from stationing chemical weapons on the territory of other States". Assent to this resolution by the United States which, regrettably, was the only State to have voted against, as well as the resumption of the bilateral negotiations between the USSR and the United States as called for in the resolution could, we believe, facilitate chemical weapons negotiations in the Ad Hoc Working Group.