

(Mr. Terrefe, Ethiopia)

and the question of the peaceful uses of outer space, for herein lies an unlimited chance for mankind to direct its universal knowledge to benefit all countries of the world in the solution of their economic and social problems, particularly in the field of communications and the exploitation of natural resources. In the Committee on Disarmament, our immediate task is to negotiate measures of preventing the nuclear arms race from being extended into outer space, for the use of satellites for early warning system against nuclear attack and other uses of outer space suggest the likelihood of space war in the future. This concern, however, should not detract the Committee from pursuing its priority items.

In the light of the growing interest displayed by States and concerned people all over the world in the convening of the second special session devoted to disarmament, the work in the ad hoc working group on a comprehensive programme of disarmament in its preparation of a draft comprehensive programme will most naturally command special attention in the Committee's work. In this connection, it is indeed good fortune that the working group on a comprehensive programme of disarmament has the distinguished representative of Mexico, Ambassador García Robles, to steer its work with his characteristic comprehensive and skilful approach.

The views of my delegation on the number of issues pertaining to the CPD are reflected in the position of the Group of 21 as contained in its working papers CD/223, CD/229 and CD/230. Based on the provisions of the Final Document, these working papers, which have been the object of extensive examination by various delegations, provide a realistic and effective approach for ensuring a meaningful disarmament draft programme for the second special session.

On the question of nuclear weapons, the objective of some delegations to equate nuclear weapons with conventional weapons would be difficult for my delegation to accept. Also, attempts to question the priority accorded to the question of nuclear disarmament in disarmament measures would equally be difficult to accept.

With respect to the items on our agenda, I would like to reiterate that my delegation would like to see the ad hoc working groups established last year continue their work without delay. On the nuclear test ban and the cessation of the nuclear arms race and nuclear disarmament, which are items of the highest priority, we wish to reiterate our view and emphasize the urgent need to set up ad hoc working groups. It is unfortunate to note that, in view of the statement made on the nuclear question by the distinguished representative of the United States at the plenary meeting on 9 February, it may prove difficult to attain this particular objective at the present time. However, with respect to chemical weapons, we should be able to make more progress under the revised mandate of the working group. In this connection, we regard published reports of the decision by the United States to build a facility to produce chemical weapons, as well as the allocation of increased funds for chemical weapons production, as regrettable, as it will inevitably intensify the chemical arms race. We are fearful that, in view of this disturbing trend, the complexity of chemical weapons negotiations will only increase over time. Therefore, the urgent need to achieve rapid progress on a chemical weapons convention is self-evident.

In conclusion, I would like to take cognizance of the report of the Secretary-General on the study of the relationship between disarmament and development, which we received with great interest. Under the chairmanship of Madame Thorsson of Sweden, to whom my delegation wish to express appreciation for the valuable contribution made, the study will not only provide a useful basis for the examination of the socio-economic consequences of the arms race, but will also hold the key to potential resources for the development objectives of the developing countries.