
The Chairman's Progress Report to the Committee on Disarmament
on the work of the Ad Hoc Working Group on Chemical Weapons

Introduction

1. The ad hoc Working Group on Chemical Weapons has authorized the Chairman to submit the following progress report to the Committee on Disarmament. It was, however, understood that the contents of this report, including its annex, will not bind or constrain delegations in the continuation of their work.
2. In the course of consideration of item 4 of its 1981 agenda, entitled "Chemical Weapons", the Committee at its one hundred and fifth plenary meeting on 12 February 1981, adopted the following decision contained in document CD/151:

"The Committee further decided to re-establish, for the duration of its 1981 session, the ad hoc working groups on effective international arrangements to assure non-nuclear weapon States against the use or threat of use of nuclear weapons, chemical weapons and radiological weapons, which were established on 17 March for its 1981 session, so that they may continue their work on the basis of their former mandates.

It is understood that the Committee will, as soon as possible, review the mandates of the three ad hoc working groups with a view to adapting, as appropriate, their mandates to advance the progress of the process of negotiations towards the objective of concrete disarmament measures.

...

The ad hoc working groups will report to the Committee on the progress of their work at any appropriate time and in any case before the conclusion of its 1981 session."

3. At its 107th meeting on 17 February 1981 the Committee elected Ambassador Lidgard, Sweden, as Chairman of the ad hoc Working Group. Mrs. L. Waldheim-Natural, Chief, Geneva Unit, United Nations Centre for Disarmament, was reappointed Secretary of the Working Group.
4. At their request and on the basis of decisions taken by the Committee on Disarmament at its one hundred and fourth and one hundred and twenty-second sessions, contained respectively in documents CD/PV.104 and CD/PV.122, representatives of Austria, Denmark, Finland, Norway, Spain and Switzerland attended meetings of the Group in addition to members of the Committee on Disarmament.
5. The Group held 12 meetings between 18 February 1981 and 22 April 1981.