(Mr. Farah, Algeria)

We recognize, of course, that the nuclear-weapon States have a special responsibility in such negotiations. But this responsibility cannot be evaluated up soon as the issues under discussion are such as to affect the security of all States.

The initiation of multilateral negotiations however important, cannot be used as an argument to justify the holding up of the multilateral process of negotiation. My delegation remains convinced of the need to set up an ad hoc working group to implement paragraph 50 of the Final Document and to identify the issues to be dealt with in multilateral negotiations on nuclear disarmament. Algeria supports the Indian proposal for the establishment, under this item, of a working group to negotiate, as the first stage in the negotiating process on the cessation of the nuclear arms race, practical measures for the prevention of nuclear war. It is more urgent than ever today to adopt effective measures to reduce the risk of nuclear war.

Another item on our agenda second only in importance to that of nuclear weapons is the question of chemical weapons. The negotiations on this subject are extremely promising, to judge by the progress made -- slow, it is true, but substantial -- and the intensity of work of the Ad Hoc Working Group under the guidance of Ambassador Sujka. The Group has in fact embarked on the delicate and crucial stage of trying to reach a compromise on the questions which remain at issue.

The main tasks remaining before the Working Group are to find a balance acceptable to all parties between national means of verification and the international verification system and to reconcile the positions of delegations on the question of a clause prohibiting the use of chemical weapons. On the latter point it appears that the Working Group is near a compromise which, without prejudice to the Protocol of 1925, meets the requirements of delegations demanding the inclusion of such a provision. The solution of these two important questions will mean that considerable advance has been made towards the conclusion of a convention on chemical weapons.

The question of the prevention of an arms race in outer space is the last one discussion at our meeting today. We are all aware of the importance of this subject in view of the threat of the extension of the arms race to outer space which is increasing day by day. The use of space technology for military purposes greatly increases the risk of outer space becoming the arena of rivalries and constituting a threat to peace, security and the peaceful use of space. Paragraph 80 of the Final Document of 1978 states that further measures should be taken and appropriate international negotiations held to prevent an arms race in outer space.

In the consideration of this question, the importance and complexity of which no one can deny, a global approach should be adopted covering all types of armaments and all certain weapons with the development, production, stockpiling and deployment of use in outer space of all types of weapons, while at being the right of every State to engage in the exploration and the peaceful use of outer space. All aspects of the question should, however, be included a consideration of measures to promote international co-operation in the matter of the use of outer space for peaceful purposes.