

(Mr. Kiilu, Kenya)

In the area of chemical weapons, my delegation feels that considerable progress has been made in the negotiations in this complex issue. We share the guarded optimism that a comprehensive convention which would outlaw for ever the development, production, stockpiling, storage and use of those terrible weapons and provide for the destruction of existing stocks can effectively be concluded and internationally respected. In this context, Kenya welcomes the efforts of the United States Government, among others, for their initiative to table a draft convention last year and the Soviet Union's acceptance of the principle of on-site inspections on the destruction of existing stocks. It is our earnest hope that the Conference will overcome the major political difficulties in order to compromise formulations in the treaty language. It is only political will and trust between the United States and the USSR that will resolve the divergent views that have emerged in the crucial area of verification. Meanwhile, we welcome the decision of the Conference to re-establish the Ad Hoc Committee on Chemical Weapons under the able Chairmanship of Ambassador Turbanski of Poland.

(Mr. Rose, German Democratic Republic)

Besides these agenda priorities in the nuclear field and outer space, my delegation attaches great importance to the progress in the negotiations for a convention banning all chemical weapons. It is my country's understanding that further results can be attained in that area in 1985, if all members of the Conference are willing to search for compromises. Headway will, however, be impossible if a particular delegation is not ready to take other views into consideration and continues to cling to positions which are generally regarded as unrealistic.

We are grateful to Ambassador Turbanski, the 1985 Chairman of the Ad Hoc Committee on Chemical Weapons, for the circumspect and goal-oriented manner in which he has tackled his job. At the same time, we wish to assure him of our readiness to co-operate in the search for solutions to the problems we are faced with.

After the promising conclusion of the January meetings of the Ad Hoc Committee on Chemical Weapons, I would like to take this opportunity to thank Ambassador Ekéus for the sense of commitment with which he discharged his duties in the chair of this body.