

(U Maung Maung Gyi, Burma)

of multilateral negotiations on nuclear disarmament is the kind of freeze that the international community is finding it difficult to accept, and we wish to express the hope that this Committee will be able to deal with this issue within a working group when we meet again next year. It would serve our purpose to recollect that negotiations on nuclear disarmament beginning with the concept of a freeze were once conducted in the ENDC by those Powers that are now reluctant to take such a step. Here again, living up to previous commitments and principles is an imperative that we cannot ignore if this Committee is to start work on nuclear disarmament when we meet again next year.

With regard to the test-ban issue, we wish for the present to confine our remarks to the work of the Ad Hoc Working Group under its given mandate and shall not be commenting on the issue as a whole.

The absence of a work programme has not made possible a systematic and structured discussion, and the exchanges of views which have taken place so far have been more or less of a general nature. However, two different fundamental approaches have once again emerged from the discussions held so far. One approach is that existing technical and scientific means are sufficient to identify a system for verification of compliance with a test ban. To our mind, this approach would make it possible to define the modalities relating to verification.

However, the other approach contends that it cannot be presumed that all technical problems have been resolved with regard to verification. We are apprehensive that this approach will lead the work of the Group into a labyrinth of technical details which will make it difficult to attain our objective of defining the modalities for the verification of compliance.

The negotiations on chemical weapons are now in an advanced stage and detailed requirements as to what a treaty should comprise have now been identified. The convergence of views of the respective positions is an encouraging factor in the negotiations. These developments have led us to believe that the prospects for an agreement are now in sight. Every effort should therefore be made for the realization of a chemical weapons convention when we meet again next year.

The proposal by the delegation of India for the establishment of an ad hoc working group to undertake appropriate and practical measures on the prevention of a nuclear war has been supported by the majority, while a few other delegations were of the view that further clarification of the issues involved would be necessary before consideration could be given to the establishment of an ad hoc working group. The informal exchanges of views which have taken place during this session have been most useful for they have paved the way for further discussions which could make it possible to deal with this issue in an appropriate working group. The desire by all delegations to deal effectively with measures on the prevention of a nuclear war is not in doubt. Needless to say, the complete prevention of a nuclear war can