

(Mr. Rose, German Democratic Republic)

achieved in a process of co-operation, and so that the possibility of its work being stymied or stalemated is largely excluded. For all these reasons, the organ must be composed of a relatively restricted number of members. The various political groups should be represented in a balanced fashion, and due regard should be given to the equitable geographical distribution of seats.

My delegation feels it is time that we conducted more purposeful consultations to solve those important issues. Any headway with regard to the problems posed by article VIII will most certainly have a favourable impact on our negotiating activities as a whole. In drawing up the convention, we are creating an element of the system of co-operation among nations which will ensure their security more reliably than ever before, since a dangerous class of weapons of mass destruction -- the class of chemical weapons -- will be eliminated from arsenals.

At the end of the 1987 session, we are again drawing up a balance sheet and seeking an answer to the question of how the Conference should proceed in the future. Conclusions for the next session of the United Nations General Assembly and the forthcoming special session on disarmament need to be formulated.

This year's meetings of the Conference have been marked by an obvious contradiction. On the one hand, the general climate has improved. On the other, the concrete results attained are lagging far behind what the Conference is supposed to accomplish according to its mandate. This is especially true of the efforts to curb the arms race and achieve disarmament in the nuclear field. I would like to make some observations on this particular subject.

High hopes are being pinned the world over on the negotiations between the USSR and the United States on the elimination of two categories of weapons of nuclear mass destruction. In fact, those negotiations have also had a positive impact on the atmosphere at this Conference. By including the Pershing 1A nuclear warheads in the number of arms to be scrapped, the main obstacle to the early conclusion of the negotiations can and must be removed, as was so convincingly argued on 6 August by Soviet Foreign Minister Shevardnadze. The "double zero" option would pave the way for radical steps to end nuclear arms competition and arrive at nuclear disarmament. For the Conference to play a more active role, the following would be necessary.

Firstly, a consensus is needed under which the curbing of the nuclear arms race and the attainment of nuclear disarmament would be regarded as practical priority tasks of international politics on the road to peace and the safeguarding of man's existence. Any action based on that consensus would rule out invoking the so-called nuclear deterrence doctrine.

Secondly, recognition on the part of all the sides concerned that bilateral and multilateral negotiations must interact with each other in a meaningful way. Nobody is disputing the particular responsibility which the major nuclear States have. It is impermissible, however, to refer to it in order to prevent the Conference from commencing practical work. Clearly, the issue we are talking about touches upon the vital interests of all peoples and needs to be resolved with the participation of all countries.