

(Mr. Sola Vila, Cuba)

Perhaps it is necessary to point out once again that the establishment of working groups as subsidiary bodies of the Committee has been recognized as one of the most effective means of carrying on work within this forum.

In this connection, my delegation supports the immediate establishment of the working groups which will continue advancing on the road already opened up in previous years to agreement on the prohibition of chemical weapons, the prohibition of radiological weapons and the granting of security guarantees for non-nuclear-weapon States.

My delegation welcomes the fact that the Committee has already decided, at the very start of its 1982 session, that the Ad Hoc Working Group on a Comprehensive Programme of Disarmament will continue to work under the guidance of Ambassador García Robles. This provides an immediate guarantee that this negotiating body will succeed in presenting a draft programme for adoption at the second special session of the General Assembly devoted to disarmament.

My delegation is also of the opinion that the Committee on Disarmament is under an obligation to seek ways of complying with the requests by the United Nations General Assembly that it should begin negotiations with a view to concluding a convention on the prohibition of the production, stockpiling, deployment and use of nuclear neutron weapons and with a view to drawing up a treaty prohibiting the stationing of weapons of any kind in outer space.

Although at future meetings we shall speak in detail on the items before the Committee, I should like to make a few brief comments on the procedure to be followed for their consideration.

The need to prepare a convention prohibiting the development, production and stockpiling of chemical weapons and providing for the destruction of existing stocks of such weapons is becoming increasingly pressing in view of the escalation of the chemical arms race, as is made clear by the recent decisions of the United States Government to authorize the continuation of the manufacture of such weapons.

Last year, the relevant Working Group made considerable progress, which should be continued this year so that such a convention may be adopted with the necessary urgency.

The adoption of urgent measures to prevent the development of chemical weapons, including binary weapons, calls for the establishment of a working group with an appropriate mandate that will enable it to enter into the substance of the preparation of the convention in question.

My delegation hopes that, this year, a decision to this effect can be taken at an early date.

With regard to the preparation of a treaty prohibiting radiological weapons, there can be no justification whatsoever for any further delay.

In the relevant resolution of the General Assembly, the Committee on Disarmament is called upon to continue negotiations so that the text of the agreement may be submitted to the General Assembly at its second special session devoted to disarmament.