

(Ms. Theorin, Sweden)

It is to be hoped that the positive spirit of the First Committee will be strengthened in the Conference on Disarmament. The General Assembly urged the Conference to begin negotiations on a comprehensive nuclear test ban treaty and to conclude the elaboration of the comprehensive programme of disarmament. The Conference on Disarmament was also requested to consider, as a matter of priority, the question of preventing an arms race in outer space, and to accelerate its negotiations on a multilateral convention prohibiting the development, production and stockpiling of chemical weapons. Furthermore, the Conference was requested to continue its negotiations on the subject of radiological weapons.

The Conference on Disarmament should now, without delay, agree on appropriate mandates so that the actual work can start. The Conference must live up to the expectations and demands of the international community.

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Sweden therefore proposes that negotiations on a comprehensive test ban treaty start immediately. We feel that the establishment of an international verification system including on-site inspections should be initiated at an early stage in the negotiations. The co-operative measures worked out by the Group of Scientific Experts could serve as a basis for that, and monitoring be started by using existing facilities around the globe. These facilities could be rapidly improved using modern technology and methods. In this way, the entry into force of a future treaty will not be delayed for technical verification reasons.

Sweden was gratified that last year the Conference on Disarmament managed, although late in the session, to establish a Committee to deal with the agenda item "Prevention of an arms race in outer space." We expect the Committee to continue and intensify this important work and to seek concrete ways to prevent an arms race in outer space. We urge all members of the Conference to work together in a constructive manner to ensure that substantive work can take place at an early stage. The procrastination that left the Committee with only nine substantive sessions last year must be avoided.

At their meeting on 8 January 1985, Foreign Ministers Shultz and Gromyko agreed "to prevent an arms race in space and to terminate it on Earth". This was confirmed by the leaders of the two main nuclear Powers in their Geneva meeting in November last year. We take this as a firm commitment by President Reagan and General Secretary Gorbachev to prevent an arms race in space.