

(Mrs. Theorin, Sweden)

While it is still too early to designate 1990 as the year of disarmament, I think one may fairly argue that we are beginning to see the contours of emerging, parallel disarmament measures: negotiated agreements or unilateral undertakings on strategic and other nuclear weapons, on chemical weapons, on conventional forces, on further confidence-building measures.

Regrettably, however, progress in global multilateral disarmament efforts has been slow compared with the recent record of the bilateral talks and the regional European negotiations. To the general public this is an enigma. If the major military Powers are seeking real disarmament, they ought to work actively for global agreements.

Over the last few years, we have become very familiar with the claim that the comprehensive chemical weapons convention will be concluded soon. Such statements cannot credibly be repeated for ever by diplomats, politicians and governments. The "rolling text" is in itself a significant achievement. If there is political will there are no insurmountable obstacles. We must be in a position to say how soon a chemical weapons convention can be expected.

In Sweden's view, the negotiations themselves could be concluded in a year's time, given the political will on all sides. A declared political commitment to reach agreement in a specified time frame has appeared conducive to reaching agreement in other negotiations. A corresponding public commitment to an agreed deadline has been considered in the chemical negotiations.

1989 started under the best auspices. The Paris Conference early last year seemed to have provided the necessary impetus and sense of urgency. My Government was convinced that the Paris Declaration, endorsed by some 150 States, with representation at a high political level, constituted a true commitment to the early conclusion of a chemical weapons ban by all participants. No one has better personified that commitment than the Ad hoc Committee Chairman for 1989, Ambassador Morel. Sweden is grateful for his energy, resourcefulness and unswerving loyalty to the task entrusted to him. We would like to thank him and to acknowledge our appreciation of the achievements made in the negotiations under his chairmanship.

The 1989 results of the chemical negotiations are very valuable. The protocol on inspection procedures, the annex on confidentiality, the annex on chemicals, the inclusion of a practically unbracketed annex I to article VI in the "rolling text", the progress on final clauses and on articles VII and VIII, the first texts on the composition of the Executive Council and the further elaboration of article IX, part 2 - all bear witness to the intensive and fruitful work carried out during 1989.

But however significant these results, they still do not constitute a breakthrough. The Paris Declaration had led us to expect a breakthrough.

We have still not been able to translate our common ground regarding challenge inspections into treaty language. We still do not know what a ad hoc verification system would look like. There is no broadly acceptable formula for the Executive Council's composition and decision-making. There are still widely disparate views on the principle that a total prohibition of