

Report to the Committee on Disarmament  
Ad Hoc Working Group on Chemical Weapons

1. In the course of consideration of item 4 of its 1980 agenda, entitled "Chemical Weapons", the Committee at its sixty-ninth plenary meeting on 17 March 1980, adopted the following decision contained in document CD/80:

"In discharging its responsibility for the negotiation and elaboration as a matter of high priority, of a multilateral convention on the complete and effective prohibition of the development, production and stockpiling of chemical weapons and on their destruction, the Committee on Disarmament decides to establish, for the duration of its 1980 session, an ad hoc working group of the Committee to define, through substantive examination, issues to be dealt with in the negotiation on such a convention, taking into account all existing proposals and future initiatives.

The ad hoc working group will report to the Committee on the progress of its work at any appropriate time and in any case before the conclusion of its 1980 session."

2. At the 80th meeting on 22 April 1980 the Committee elected Ambassador Y. Okawa, Japan, as Chairman of the ad hoc Working Group. Mrs. L. Waldheim-Natural, Chief, Geneva Unit, United Nations Centre for Disarmament, was appointed Secretary of the Working Group.

3. At their request and on the basis of decisions taken by the Committee on Disarmament at its eighty-sixth and ninety-first sessions, contained respectively in documents CD/PV.86 and CD/PV.91, representatives of Denmark, Finland and Switzerland attended meetings of the Group in addition to members of the Committee on Disarmament.

4. The Group held 16 meetings between 23 April 1980 and 1 August 1980.

5. In carrying out its mandate the ad hoc Working Group took into account paragraph 75 of the Final Document of the first special session of the General Assembly of the United Nations devoted to disarmament, which stated that the conclusion of a convention on chemical weapons was one of the most urgent tasks of multilateral negotiations.

6. In the conduct of its work, the following working papers were circulated to the Working Group: