

In my concluding statement to the Group, I described in considerable detail a possible course of action for the Group during the second half of the 1982 session. In this connection, I appealed to the members of the Group asking them to do specific preparatory work for the summer session if we are to approach as close as possible the stage of drafting the provisions of the convention. I do not want to repeat myself because that statement, in view of the interest shown by members of the Group, has been circulated by the Secretariat as a Working Paper of the Group on Chemical Weapons. But, with your permission, I would like to appeal again for displaying serious efforts by all delegations during the summer session so that we could translate as many dissenting views as possible into the alternative elements and then elaborate compromise elements. A compilation of draft elements and proposed new texts has also been made available to all delegations to facilitate the kind of exercise I am appealing for.

I would like to apologize to my predecessors: Ambassador Okawa and Ambassador Lidgard, for not mentioning their names as chairmen of the Group in 1980 and in 1981 respectively, in the introductory part of the report. I personally was of the opinion that that kind of introduction should not contain all the details I have noticed in the reports of other working groups. But certainly I am for uniformity of reports of all working groups in this respect and I hope that the Committee will agree to cover these problems in paragraphs 61 and 62 of its own report. The same proceedings could be also applied as to the participation of non-member States in the work of the Working Group.

Finally, let me refer to some recent discussions in the CD drafting group. My reply is brief: the Working Group, indeed, has not been directly reflecting in its activities the Committee's plenary discussions. It has conducted its work on the basis of a new, I repeat, new mandate which was adopted with the consent of all delegations. On the basis of that mandate and the programme of work, also adopted by consensus, the group has acted and its activities have been reflected in this report. Let me also say that, exactly, this is the principal aim of the Committee's report to reflect the course and trends of discussions that have been taking place in plenaries. The Group's report, in my view, had to be limited to the discussions in the Working Group itself. References to the discussions in plenary have been, of course, reflected in the Group's work, when such discussions contained specific proposals relevant to the subjects of negotiations in the Group.

As the distinguished members of the Committee are well aware, the Working Group on Chemical Weapons, has entered, with a new mandate, another, sensitive phase of its work. We have held another series of thorough examinations and complex problems. I wish to emphasize, as chairman of this Group, that despite the whole sensitivity and complexity of our negotiations, the work has been conducted in a spirit of mutual understanding, respect and co-operation. For this understanding, mutual respect and co-operation I thank at this moment cordially once more all the members of the Group.

I would like to ask that this statement be distributed as an official document of the Committee, as document CD/286 of the distinguished Chairman of the CPD Working Group, Ambassador Garcia Robles.