

(Mr. Ogada, Kenya)

The joint United States-USSR statement declaring that the two super-Powers are ready to undertake practical bilateral action with respect to the elimination of chemical weapons is certainly welcome news, and will no doubt benefit the work of the Ad hoc Committee. However, it should be remembered that the Conference has identified nuclear disarmament as a priority objective. Yet on issues related to nuclear disarmament the Conference has made little headway. At a time when the two super-Powers have signed and implemented an agreement eliminating a category of nuclear weapons, and when favourable prospects exist for their signing a treaty eliminating 50 per cent of their strategic nuclear forces, the efforts of this Conference to deal with nuclear disarmament issues have stagnated.

With regard to the verification regime in the future convention on CW, our basic position is that we are in favour of an effective, reasonable and feasible verification regime under the convention, including challenge inspection. In the mean time we maintain that challenge inspection should not go beyond the purposes, objectives and scope of the convention, and that its