

(Mr. Don Nanjira, Kenya)

Three: consequently, the working groups on a comprehensive programme of disarmament, chemical weapons, radiological weapons, a nuclear test ban and negative security assurances should be re-established under their former mandates, except for the Working Group on a Nuclear Test Ban, whose current mandate is inadequate and should hence be reformulated to make it comprehensive and more suitable and appropriate. Once these existing working groups have been re-established, consultations should be held to finalize the allocation among the various regional groups of the chairmanships of these subsidiary bodies. Again, action to this end should not consume too much of the Committee's time. No delegation which seriously wants to see a comprehensive test-ban treaty signed would disagree with the argument that the terms of reference of any working body charged with the responsibility of negotiating a CTBT, or an NTBT, must include, apart from verification, such questions as the scope of the future treaty and its final clauses. The mandate of the Working Group on a Nuclear Test Ban should thus be elaborated accordingly.

(Mr. Don Nanjira, Kenya)

On the other important issues before the Committee for deliberation at its current session, I would have the following to say.

1. On chemical weapons, it is most regrettable that the discussions in the Working Group on Chemical Weapons, which convened here in Geneva on 17 January last and worked for two weeks, were a mere reaffirmation of the positions the various delegations had adopted during the second part of the Committee's 1982 session. The deliberations of the contact groups created by Ambassador Sujka of Poland have, however, been useful and the adoption of a similar work programme for the Working Group on Chemical Weapons during the Committee's present session might be very worthwhile. The Working Group itself should convene as few formal meetings as possible in order to allocate most of its time to discussions in smaller units which have proved to be better forums for negotiations than larger ones— provided, of course that such smaller working units are open-ended and announced for all delegations to participate in if they should so wish. I take this opportunity to express my genuine thanks to Ambassador Sujka and his team of co-ordinators who have done an outstanding job in the past two weeks within the Working Group on Chemical Weapons.