

(Mr. Vaernø, Norway)

Under the able chairmanship of Dr. Ericsson of Sweden, the Group has proposed the establishment of a global seismological network to assist in the verification of a potential CTBT. The Ad Hoc Group is pursuing its work by elaborating in detail how such a global system should be operated. A problem of particular importance in this regard is how to achieve rapid, reliable exchange of the large volumes of seismic data which would be accumulated. In the years that have gone by since the Ad Hoc Group first proposed the global system (in 1978 in document CCD/558), there have been rapid technological advances with respect to computer and data communication technology. This has opened up new possibilities to improve the effectiveness of the global data exchange, and Norway considers it important that the work of the Ad Hoc Group take advantage of this new situation.

As a Norwegian contribution to the work of the Group, a low-cost computer system has been developed for the purpose of rapid international exchange of seismic data. The system would be suitable as a prototype which could be further developed for future installation at any station in the global seismic network.

In this connection I have the honour to introduce the Norwegian working paper contained in document CD/310 on a prototype system for the international exchange of seismological data under a comprehensive test-ban treaty. Such a prototype has been developed by scientists at the Norwegian Seismic Array (NORSAR) as a result of a research project which was initiated in 1980 under the sponsorship of the Norwegian Ministry of Foreign Affairs. This afternoon a demonstration of how such a system functions will be staged by representatives of NORSAR.

It is our hope that this national contribution will prove to be of value to the further studies of the seismic expert Group and the negotiations in the Working Group on a Nuclear Test Ban, which in its first phase will focus on verification.

As we have pointed out before, the Norwegian Government is prepared to make NORSAR available as a monitoring station within a global seismic verification system. With this in mind, Norway will continue to take an active part in the seismic expert Group. We shall also participate in the Working Group on a Nuclear Test Ban as an observer.

According to the Final Document of the first special session on disarmament and several resolutions adopted by the General Assembly at its regular sessions, the conclusion of a chemical weapons convention is one of the most urgent tasks of multilateral disarmament negotiations. Norway welcomed the decision taken at the beginning of this year's session on a revised mandate for the Ad Hoc Working Group on Chemical Weapons. Based on document CD/CW/WP.33 and under the energetic leadership of Ambassador Sujka, the negotiations are now entering a new phase, aimed at reaching compromises on the main outstanding questions. In this regard, Norway has with interest studied the proposals concerning verification contained in the basic provisions of a chemical weapons convention which were introduced by the Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Soviet Union during the second special session.

The Norwegian Government is of the opinion that a ban on chemical weapons is one of the most important issues on the international agenda for disarmament.