

economic disparity and threats to civil and political rights. National security must ensure the security of citizens and not compromise it. The time has come not to abandon attempts at disarmament but to renew them, not to neglect human rights but to insist that the United Nations and its member States recognize the privileged place they must occupy in international relations.

My predecessor in this forum, President Keba M. Baye, deplored last year that each of us presented himself here bearing instructions and bound by the decisions of his Government. Instead of working to realize a common ideal, many members of the Commission strain their ingenuity to defend fixed political positions, responding to solely ideological and economic interests in an organ which should aspire to universality and whose principal concern should be the dignity of the person. Alas, we are meeting here as representatives of our countries and the Commission is not a debating society where each can unburden himself freely. Diplomats do not live solely by simulation and dissimulation, contrary to the legend attached to their profession; in reality their strength lies in their integrity. If one cannot trust their word, international relations will be constructed on too fragile a foundation. Our official character should not prevent us from conducting ourselves as persons of good faith and good will. Despite all that divides us, let us apply ourselves to developing techniques of practical co-operation. Whatever our differences, I believe that beyond philosophical arguments, we must strive in our work to conciliate in a pragmatic manner the aspirations which are shared by all people and which are evidence of their ineradicable hope for a better, more just and more fraternal society.