

(Mr. Skalli, Morocco)

In the past three years, the Committee has merely continued to hold general discussions in the shadow of the negotiations conducted in 1979 and 1980 by the three nuclear Powers which are the depositaries of the 1963 partial test-ban Treaty and the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons. It should be noted that the trilateral negotiations have not led to any results that might facilitate the task of the Committee, which has, so far, not been able to engage in genuine negotiations. The regrettable fate of the first item on our agenda is also that of the second item, namely, the cessation of the nuclear arms race and nuclear disarmament.

My delegation, which believes that it is of the highest importance to continue to respect the Committee's status as the single multilateral negotiating body on disarmament, considers that it is high time to move from the stage of exchanges of view to that of negotiations on the above-mentioned items.

My delegation continues to give preference to the establishment of subsidiary bodies and, in particular, working groups to conduct the negotiations on these two items. We hope that this problem will be solved this year so that the Committee can break the deadlock in which it finds itself.

The Moroccan delegation welcomes the fact that the Committee has agreed to re-establish the Working Groups on the items on our agenda relating to chemical weapons, radiological weapons and security assurances for non-nuclear-weapon States, respectively. I would like to take this opportunity to express my delegation's congratulations to the distinguished representatives of Poland, the Federal Republic of Germany and Pakistan on their appointment as the Chairmen of these Working Groups. It is a matter of particular satisfaction that the mandate of the Working Group on Chemical Weapons has been revised and brought more into line with the goal we have set ourselves, namely, the elaboration of a convention on the prohibition of chemical weapons and the destruction of stockpiles of such weapons.

In this connection, we note with appreciation the intensive efforts made and substantial results achieved by the Ad Hoc Working Group on Chemical Weapons at the preceding session. My delegation is of the opinion that so much progress has been made in the work of this Group that we should, without delay, engage in the task of negotiating the text of a convention on the prohibition and elimination of such weapons. The conclusion of such a convention would undoubtedly be a crucial disarmament measure and it is one to which the international community attaches the greatest importance and highest priority.

With regard to the question of effective international arrangements to assure non-nuclear-weapon States against the use or threat of use of nuclear weapons, it would be highly desirable, particularly in view of the second special session of the General Assembly devoted to disarmament, to intensify efforts to reach an agreement on an approach or a common formula to be included in an international instrument of a legally binding nature. In this connection, my delegation has already had an opportunity to state that it is in favour of an international convention. We hope that the Working Group will take account of the fact that there is widespread support for the idea of such a convention.