

As well this organization is confronted with a difficulty in approaching the issue of religious intolerance, which lies at the root of some of the worlds most divisive and enduring conflicts. What is lacking is not a body of standards and principles, but rather, a means, to ensure that those principles contained in the declaration on religious intolerance are fully respected. In time a convention may be negotiated by this Committee. Meanwhile we support the work of the Special Rapporteur, who can draw to the world's attention serious deviations from accepted standards, and recommend remedies. This work will serve as a foundation on which to construct an effective convention with a stronger implementation device.

Much of this statement has been about common themes of human rights situations throughout the world. Now I wish briefly to comment on future possibilities for treating these situations effectively. Earlier in this session, my delegation had an opportunity to comment on a report prepared by the Secretary General entitled "International Conditions and Human Rights". This should have been an important document bearing on those conditions which help to ensure universal realization of human rights, and, conversely, on obstacles which stand in the way of fuller implementation of international obligations. There was an opportunity here to draw on more than a decade of work with reports of Special Rapporteurs, and to link our work with similar activities on the part of the Council of Europe, the Organization of American States and the Organization of African Unity. It was a chance to translate our concern for principles and ideals into something more concrete and tangible. Regrettably, the document failed to link adequately the enjoyment of human rights and the variety of obstacles which frustrate attempts to exercise rights in many countries and regions. Thus, while disappointed with this particular document, my delegation still believes that there is merit in pursuing such an exercise aimed at focussing attention on barriers to the effective enjoyment of human rights and fundamental freedoms.

A case in point is the situation in Central America, a region subjected to intense scrutiny by international organizations in the field of human rights. Reports from various inter-governmental and non-governmental organizations have dealt with the human rights situations in El Salvador and Guatemala at the Commission on Human Rights. Although human rights are at the core of our concerns in this region, we are also aware that countries are suffering from other difficulties--from the triple scourges of chronic under-development, military conflict and a heritage of unpopular or unelected governments. We have confronted the