

(Mr. Tian Jin, China)

effective implementation. For each stage, an indicative time-frame should be provided. And the verification machinery and procedures necessary for reviewing its implementation should be established. Since the programme is to be worked out through serious negotiations, States should undertake obligations and responsibilities arising therefrom and implement the programme in earnest.

The prohibition of chemical weapons has always been an important issue at the sessions of the Committee on Disarmament. The continued use of such weapons of mass destruction in massacring people has aroused grave concern on the part of the world public opinion. Over the past year, there have again been many reports on the use of chemical weapons in Afghanistan, Kampuchea and other places. It is disturbing to note that the superpowers which possess large arsenals of chemical weapons are stepping up the production, development and deployment of these weapons. All this commands greater urgency in the task of formulating an international convention on the complete prohibition and total destruction of chemical weapons. We agree with the proposal of many countries that the mandate of the Working Group be extended.

We maintain that the scope of the prohibition in the future convention should cover the use of chemical weapons. To emphasize anew the prohibition of the use of chemical weapons would supplement and strengthen the 1925 Geneva Protocol. In order to ensure implementation of the future convention, we maintain that stringent and effective measures for international verification be provided for, including on-site inspections on the use of chemical weapons, the destruction of stockpiles of such weapons and the dismantling of facilities for their production.

Let me turn now to the question of security assurances for the non-nuclear-weapon States. In the face of the grave nuclear threat, the numerous non-nuclear-weapon States demand that, pending nuclear disarmament, nuclear-weapon States unconditionally undertake the obligation not to use or threaten to use nuclear weapons against non-nuclear-weapon States and that on this basis, negotiations be started as soon as possible to conclude an international convention in this regard. The Chinese delegation supports this demand. We are ready to give positive consideration to proposals made or to be made on this item, provided they are truly conducive to the strengthening of the security of the non-nuclear-weapon States. In our view, the nuclear-weapon States should consider the reasonable demand of the non-nuclear-weapon States for the guaranteeing of their security. Basing themselves on their own narrow interests, the major nuclear-weapon powers are putting various conditions to non-nuclear-weapon States, and demanding that non-nuclear-weapon States ensure the security of the major nuclear Powers first. Such a practice of putting the cart before the horse is bound to prevent the Committee on Disarmament from making progress on this item.

The resolutions adopted by the General Assembly at its thirty-sixth session call upon the Committee to consider at its current session the question of preventing an arms race in outer space. In recent years, the two superpowers have been energetically developing military technology used in outer space. They have in their hands some outer space weapons which are near the operational stage. The fact that the arms race between them has already extended into outer space is another salient feature in the new round of their arms race.