

(U Maung Maung Gyi, Burma)

Since the late 1960s, the prohibition of chemical weapons has been the preoccupation of successive multilateral disarmament forums. The procedural format of the negotiations can be said to have reached an advanced stage by the drafting of the structure of a convention. The Conference cannot afford to conduct negotiations in the languid style of the past decade, for in recent years the development of new technology for chemical weapons is making them more important in the military thinking of some nuclear-weapon States. Disarmament agreements have a better chance of succeeding before weapons become firmly integrated to play an important role in the military arsenals of States, and it is therefore necessary to clinch a timely agreement before chemical weapons assume such a role.

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(Mr. Ould Rouis, Algeria)

On the question of prohibition of chemical weapons, evaluation of the results which have been achieved in this area allows for a degree of satisfaction, since the work so far undertaken has led to the clarification of standpoints and identification of the technical questions involved in the preparation of a future convention of the prohibition of such weapons.

Further efforts were made in this direction at the most recent session of the Ad Hoc Committee but more still must be done.

The moment is ripe for a display of the political will and realism needed for achieving the preparation of a draft future convention.

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(Mr. Skalli, Morocco)

After a year during which it has been marking time, the Ad Hoc Committee on Chemical Weapons is at present in a decisive phase inasmuch as all the conditions are met for 1985 to be, perhaps, the year of a convention on chemical weapons, since the political will to achieve success in these negotiations seems clear. In this regard, the Moroccan delegation continues to give high priority to the total and absolute prohibition of all chemical weapons in the world.

We pay tribute in passing to the excellent work done by Ambassador Ekéus of Sweden, who was Chairman of the Committee on Chemical Weapons in 1984, and assure his successor, Ambassador Turbanski of Poland, of our full co-operation.