

(Mr. Garcia Robles, Mexico)

It has not been possible to reach agreement on reasonable procedures for challenge inspection. The excessive demands of some -- the immediate opening of facilities -- together with the excessive hesitancy of others -- the subjecting of inspection to the consent of the receiving State -- have prevented the finding of an intermediate position that could satisfy one and all. For its part, my delegation remains convinced that the text drawn up in the intensive consultations held by the chairman of the relevant working group last year and which could not even be included in the Committee's report because of the opposition of one delegation constitutes an excellent negotiating basis since it contains realistic proposals and limits to the minimum the possibilities of refusing an inspection.

This is a crucial year in the preparatory work for the convention. We regret that two States members of the Conference, the United States and France, recently deemed it appropriate to take the decision to add new devices of mass destruction to those they already possess, at a time when the negotiations on the convention, in which they play a dominant role, are in their final phase.

As a State which does not possess chemical weapons, Mexico attaches great importance to the conclusion of the convention, which will definitively eliminate this lethal category of weapons of destruction. As we always try to do in similar cases, this interest of ours has been proven through facts, such as the fact that, despite our delegation's being one of the smallest accredited to the Conference on Disarmament, one of its members has this year been devoting almost all his efforts to performing the task of co-ordinator of one of the three working groups that makes up the basic structure established by the Committee in 1985. We have been doing so because we are convinced of the need to step up our efforts in order to be able to transmit to the General Assembly as soon as possible an agreement as important as the convention, whose purpose is forever to eliminate chemical weapons, undoubtedly will be. Let us hope that, in the coming year, our efforts, which began so many years ago in this negotiating body, which then bore the title of Conference of the Committee on Disarmament, will be crowned with success.