

(Mrs. Theorin, Sweden)

The question of chemical weapons has been a priority item in the multilateral disarmament negotiations in Geneva for the last 15 years. It is gratifying to note the progress made during the last year's sessions of the Conference on Disarmament towards a total prohibition of chemical weapons. The full process of drafting a multilateral convention is now well under way.

The Ad Hoc Committee on Chemical Weapons has continued its work this year by a three-week session, covering some of the most vital issues of a future Convention on Chemical Weapons. The work of the Ad Hoc Committee resulted in further clarification of some of the issues involved, while other issues were identified and explored for the benefit of the future negotiations in the Ad Hoc Committee under its new Chairman. Although progress during this meeting was limited, the work was carried out in a good political atmosphere.

I would like to appeal to all countries producing or considering producing chemical weapons. History clearly tells us that disarmament can never be achieved through armaments. All States must therefore refrain from producing chemical weapons -- binary or others -- during the negotiations on a convention prohibiting such weapons.

Last year my delegation submitted draft provisions of a treaty prohibiting the release or dissemination of radioactive material for hostile purposes. Our draft proposal addresses, in particular, one of the major outstanding issues, that of releasing radioactive material through attacks on nuclear facilities. The draft proposes a prohibition against attacks on nuclear facilities causing destruction, damage or injury through radiation.

For our part we were pleased to see the work on this matter revitalized during last year's session. We hope that this year the Conference will make tangible progress towards such a treaty.

(Mr. Wegener, Federal Republic of Germany)

The positive momentum generated by the two major Powers should, in the view of my delegation, primarily be instilled into the ongoing negotiations on chemical weapons. The Federal Government attaches the highest significance to a rapid conclusion of a world-wide, internationally verifiable chemical weapons ban. As in past sessions, my delegation expects to contribute to the success of these negotiations by concrete and constructive proposals.