

(Mr. Sujka, Poland)

Accordingly, from the beginning of the summer session, the Working Group continued to conduct intensive discussions and consultations aimed at elaborating the provisions of the future convention. After another round of detailed consultations within the Group based on the revised elements and comments thereto, and on such a constructive and valuable document as the "Basic Provisions" of a convention presented by the delegation of the USSR as well as on various proposals made by other delegations, nine informal, open-ended contact groups were established with the task of examining in depth specific problems involved and working out possible options and working hypotheses which could help to overcome existing divergences and advance the process of elaboration of the convention at the next stage of negotiations. These informal contact groups dealt particularly with the following spheres of the future convention:

The scope of the convention;

Definitions of technical terms which will be used in the convention;

Verification procedures, including particularly:

Declarations of the possession of stocks of chemical weapons and of the means of their production, time-frames and the forms of such declarations;

The process of and plans for the destruction, dismantling or diversion for permitted purposes of stocks of chemical weapons and facilities;

National legislation and verification measures;

National technical means of verification;

An international verification system;

Other issues, inter alia, the convention's preamble, its relationship with other treaties and international co-operation in the implementation of the convention as well as many other aspects.

The reports of all contact groups were subsequently discussed and, where necessary, revised during the Working Group's consecutive meetings.

The consultations with delegations, assisted by experts, on certain technical questions resulted in 1982 in providing the Working Group with the recommendations on standardized operating procedures for acute subcutaneous toxicity determinations and for acute inhalation toxicity criteria. These recommendations are of direct relevance to the future convention.

The Working Group, through its intensive work in 1982 and its full devotion to the noble goal of the elaboration of a convention on the prohibition of chemical weapons, has again strongly reaffirmed not only that the conclusion of such a convention is one of the highest priorities in our negotiations but also that it is possible to reach agreement on it through a harmonized, collective effort. It is in such a way that I interpret the dedication and tireless effort of all co-ordinators and practically all delegations in seeking -- and finding -- compromise solutions