

(Mr. Sujka, Poland)

on chemical weapons. Now, we have learned with satisfaction that the United States would be ready "to support efforts to achieve a ban on chemical weapons". My delegation welcomes such a statement, which we take as an expression of the consent of that delegation to a broader mandate for the Working Group on Chemical Weapons. In view of the above, my delegation believes that a proposal on the broadening of the mandate will achieve consensus. With an enlarged mandate, which will oblige us to start the elaboration of a draft convention, the working group should obviously base its work on the solid foundations that have been built at the Committee's last two sessions under the very able chairmanship of the Ambassadors of Japan and Sweden. How to proceed further? As we all realize, the present stage of negotiations makes it possible to determine the level of convergence and divergence of views on numerous issues around the table. From this point on, this year's group should start elaborating specific provisions of the convention on issues where convergence or unanimity of views has been reached and try to narrow the gap on issues where the views still differ. The group could possibly work in turns, that is, concentrating at a time on elaborating specific provisions and, at another time, on narrowing the gap between the diverging views.

My delegation, which was a co-sponsor of General Assembly resolution 36/96 B, wishes to refer to its operative paragraph 5, which "calls upon all States to refrain from any action which could impede negotiations on the prohibition of chemical weapons and specifically to refrain from production and deployment of binary and other new types of chemical weapons, as well as from stationing chemical weapons in those States where there are no such weapons at present". We are convinced that this stipulation should be clearly reflected in our work on the future convention on chemical weapons.

The distinguished representative of Czechoslovakia, who spoke on 2 February, expressed in considerable detail the views shared by the socialist countries, including Poland, on the comprehensive programme of disarmament as a whole, as well as on its particular chapters. I do not have much to add, except to underline and emphasize once again that, in the light of the coming second special session which will approve the programme, my delegation belongs to those very many others who consider that the draft CPD should be elaborated by this Committee at its current spring session. What we need is a realistic and genuine approach to the main objective: to negotiate for general and complete disarmament. In this connection, I totally share the view expressed here one week ago by the distinguished representative of India.

In fact, I have one remark to add to the discussion of the principles of the comprehensive programme of disarmament. I have in mind the "linkage" argument. If each of us in this room is to apply the "linkage" approach, then, indeed, we shall not be able to work out a genuine comprehensive programme of disarmament. My delegation therefore suggests that the disarmament negotiations, known from past experience as a time-consuming and painstaking process, should not be linked with other events in international life. We are of the opinion that that should become one of the principles of the future CPD.

This is the position on the main topics that my delegation has brought with it in coming to participate in the 1982 session of the Committee on Disarmament. We are ready to co-operate with every delegation, as we think it essential that tangible progress should be made this year. For socialist Poland's foreign policy, there is objective more important and urgent than to secure lasting peace and multilateral co-operation for all nations of the world. This can be done only by stopping the mad arms race with a view to arriving at a general and complete disarmament.