

Mr. ISSRAELYAN (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) (translated from Russian):  
Mr. Chairman, there is an item on the agenda of the Committee on Disarmament which by general recognition draws the greatest attention of its member States. This is the item on the prohibition of chemical weapons. This year we have repeatedly expressed our view on this item, both at the plenary meetings of the Committee and in the course of various bilateral consultations. In addition, of course, there has been the day-to-day participation of our delegation in the negotiations within the Working Group and its contact groups. Nobody will deny that important work has been done during the current session of the Committee. Many new proposals, documents and comments have been submitted, by the USSR delegation among others. In our view, what is of primary significance is the fact that, in spite of well-known attitudes, the Committee has managed in some respects to go beyond sterile academism and general theoretical debates, to overcome in part the formulophobia of some delegations and to start the process of the preparation and consideration on a preliminary basis, where it was possible, of the draft provisions for the future convention. This new working method, used in parallel with the search of solution for outstanding questions, began to prove its vitality and efficiency. There is no doubt that it should be used also in future. It should be noted that the co-ordinators of the contact groups have come to see the merits of such an approach. It is not their fault that it was not possible to adopt it in full measure. In general they have done a good job. We would like also to praise the Chairman of the Ad Hoc Working Group, Ambassador McPhail of Canada, who has supported the initiatives of the co-ordinators and who himself has not ignored new ideas and has displayed enthusiasm, energy and readiness for co-operation.

It is clear that the results of the work on the prohibition of chemical weapons done this summer could be considered as on the whole positive.

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