

(Mr. Tellalov, Bulgaria)

By recommending that the work of this Conference should focus on the nuclear issues, my delegation at the same time advocates that we take further the efforts on other important agenda items, the prohibition of chemical weapons in particular. As a whole, the positions of the various States are fully known. For this reason, it is first of decisive importance at this stage to proceed to the formulation of a Convention. In practical terms this should mean that individual drafts and formulae represent no more than one element in the complex and multilateral process of drafting a convention. What the Conference needs at this stage are common, mutually acceptable texts on the various sections of a convention; and secondly, not to demonstrate a one-sided approach. Otherwise, even the best of intentions will be interpreted solely as misleading manoeuvres.

Taking up another point, I should like to stress the unfavourable impression which has been created so far by the approach of NATO member States towards the proposal of the socialist countries to free Europe from chemical weapons. On the one hand, the Western States seem not to deny the positive rational element in this new proposal, while on the other, they do not want to commit themselves on its implementation. To put into practice such partial measures of a regional nature would only assist the efforts exerted in this forum, which are aimed at the early conclusion of a convention banning chemical weapons, something that remains the ultimate goal of the member States of the Warsaw Treaty Organization.