

(Mr. Bojilov, Bulgaria)

if we did not admit that the Conference still has difficulties in joining the general stream of events in the world and - at least to some extent - remains unaffected by the positive trends in international life. There is definitely a change - in the tone and in the general atmosphere. We welcome that. But international public opinion is expecting results, at least one multilateral convention as soon as possible.

It could be said, without exaggeration, that at present the credibility of the Conference on Disarmament, as the single multilateral negotiating body, is staked mainly if not exclusively on one card - the elaboration of a draft convention on a comprehensive and total chemical weapon ban. In January of this year 149 countries gathered in Paris were unanimous in acknowledging "the necessity of concluding, at an early date, a convention on the prohibition of the development, production, stockpiling and use of all chemical weapons, and on their destruction". The Paris Conference called upon the Conference on Disarmament "to redouble its efforts, as a matter of urgency, to resolve expeditiously the remaining issues and to conclude the convention at the earliest date".

My delegation highly appreciates the efforts deployed so far by Ambassador Morel in his capacity as Chairman of the Ad hoc Committee on Chemical Weapons, as well as the energy and dedication of the five chairmen of the working groups. There is no doubt that the work has been intensified. We have a new structure for the negotiations, more meetings, more discussions, more participants in the negotiations. A great amount of technical work has been done, and some results have been achieved. Most unfortunately, however, we have been unable, during the spring session, to come closer to the solution of a few critically important outstanding issues which are generally recognized to be the crux of the future draft convention. In our view it is imperative at this stage for the Ad hoc Committee, and in particular its working groups, to avoid a repetition of past discussion. It is also imperative for them not to be obsessed with issues of detail which have - at least to some extent - acquired disproportionate importance during the spring session. It is high time for the negotiations to give priority to efforts aimed at finalizing the provisions on challenge inspections, agreeing on the order of destruction of chemical weapons and chemical weapon production facilities, and reaching understanding on the composition and decision-making powers of the Executive Council. Given political will on the part of all participants in the negotiations, it should be possible to reach agreement on a general scheme of verification of compliance with the convention and to resolve the outstanding issues related to the régime of synthesis and production of schedule [1] chemicals not prohibited by the convention. It is also time to move forward in finding solutions to the problems involved in article X and article XI.

My delegation welcomes the resumption of the Soviet-American consultations on chemical weapons. We expect them to produce results which give a strong impetus to the negotiations in the framework of the Conference. My delegation hopes that during the summer session the Conference will succeed in translating the spirit and letter of the Declaration of the Paris Conference into real progress in the elaboration of the draft convention.