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Chairman: Mr. TAYLHARDAT (Venezuela)

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Programme of work

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The meeting was called to order at 10.25 a.m.

AGENDA ITEMS 49 TO 69 AND 151 (continued)

GENERAL DEBATE ON ALL DISARMAMENT ITEMS

Mr. KARHILO (Finland) : Mr. Chairman, my delegation is very happy to see you occupy your important post in our Committee. I am very well aware of and appreciate your significant contributions in this Organisation, in other international forums and in your own country .

Yesterday you very aptly expressed condolences to the United States delegation on the tragedy in California. I fully associate my delegation with those condolences.

For a number of years now the international community has had the luxury of pursuing its disarmament efforts in an atmosphere of tranquillity and real progress in East-West relations. Judging from recent events, continuity in this respect seems assured. Finland considers the stable evolution of East-West relations, particularly in Europe, to be very much in its own security interests.

Finland welcomes the high-level and highly public attention given to chemical disarmament in recent weeks. Chemical disarmament is not only important and urgent but must be seen to be so. Public awareness of, and support for, chemical disarmament is invaluable.

Finland welcomes the reaffirmation of the commitment of the United States and the USSR, as expressed in their joint statement on chemical weapons,

“to pursue aggressively the prohibition of chemical weapons and the destruction of all stockpiles of such weapons on the basis of a comprehensive, effectively verifiable and truly global ban.” (A/C.1/44/2, p. 2)

We also concur in their view that the early conclusion and entry into force of a convention to this effect is one of the highest priorities of the international community.

(Me. Karhilo, Finland)

In so far as ongoing multilateral disarmament negotiations at the **global level** are concerned, we would go even further, **Today**, the rapid **conclusion** of a chemical weapons convention is the highest **priority** of the international **community**. In view of the relative **ease** and inexpensiveness with which chemical weapons can be manufactured and deployed, a global **ban** is clearly needed. For the **same** reason, a **quest** to determine who **is** capable of producing those weapons and who is not is bound to **be** elusive and **frustrating**. It is certainly our strong preference that all States should adhere to the future convention whether **or** not they are in fact **or** potentially capable of producing **chemical** weapons. But should the **international** community risk indefinite delay if this is not yet the **case**? We **think** not, It would be **tragic** if the best were to turn out to be the enemy of the **good**.

Finland is **encouraged by** the fact that in the wake of the **Paris** Conference the number of **States** taking an active interest in **the** chemical weapons negotiations at the Conference on Disarmament has grown markedly. In our view, all States without exception wishing to **participate** as non-members should be **able** to do so. The **cause** of **universal** adherence to the future convention can only **profit** thereby,

At the Paris Conference Finland announced an initiative **designed to make a** tangible contribution towards a more equitable geographical distribution of verification expertise and, hence, universal adherence to the convention. **Building** on its own **expertise** gained in researching verification of chemical disarmament since 1973, Finland will **organize** training on **verification** methods for analytical chemists from developing countries starting **early** next year. Initially the training programme, the full cost of which is borne **by the Government of Finland**, is **made** available to interested non-aligned members of the **Conference on** Disarmament. We are gratified by the response that our **offer has evoked and hope** to expand the circle of participants in due course.

(Mr. Kar hillo, Finland)

It ~~is~~ just ~~as~~ important ~~that a ban~~ on chemical weapons should be total ~~in its scope~~ as that it should be universal. An unequivocal commitment is needed to halt production of chemical weapons immediately after the entry into force of the future convention, and to destroy all chemical-weapon stocks within the prescribed ~~period~~. No reservations of any sort to these ~~basic~~ under ~~takings~~ are tenable. A total ban is a sine qua non of a ~~global~~ ban.

Whatever bilateral steps the Soviet Union and the United States ~~are going to~~ take to facilitate the attainment of the objective of a total ~~ban~~ ~~are most~~ welcome, and we urge others with chemical weapons ~~to~~ join them.

There is no ~~doubt~~ that effective ~~verification~~ is the key to ~~an~~ effective convention on chemical weapons. Effectiveness entails recognition of limits. ~~In~~ ~~OUK~~ view, the means are already available to make sure that ~~existing~~ stocks are destroyed and that "weaponizable" chemicals, in "~~weaponizable~~" quantities, are not used to produce new weapons. In essence, this is what is required of a convention whose purpose is to ban chemical weapons, not to monitor chemical industries or lethal chemicals ~~as such~~.

~~Of course~~, within the limits set by the purpose of the future convention, ~~verification~~ must of necessity be intrusive and make possible short-notice recourse to mandatory ~~on-site inspections~~. Verification must also be based on technically and ~~scien ti fi cally~~ sound ~~methods~~, using the most suitable instrumentation.

The technical discussions of ~~vet ification~~ requirements at the Conference on Disarmament should not be allowed to become a ~~w ild-goose~~ chase after new ~~gaps~~ and new theoretical possibilities of evasion or abuse. Political will to conclude the convention has recently been on display in Paris and Canberra, in Jackson Hole and New York. ~~It is~~ time to ~~show~~ it in Geneva by working out the necessary details.

The Canberra Conference showed us that political will must be coupled with ~~practica l~~ will. The ~~successful~~ implementation of the future convention ~~will depend~~

(Mr. Karhilo, Finland)

on **thorough** preparations at **the** national level. It is vital to begin **that** work as soon as possible.

Like chemical **weapons**, conventional weapons constitute a clear and present danger to international peace and security. They are being used this very day in various conflicts. **They account** for an overwhelming part of global military expenditures, warping economic and social development throughout much of the world.

Conventional arms and armed forces as a source of insecurity are being addressed seriously in my own region, Europe. The twin negotiations within the framework of the Conference on Security and Co-operation in Europe hold out great promise in this regard. The conventional arms race merits no less serious consideration in other regions and at the global level.

The **United Nations** has made a beginning by dealing with this issue at the Disarmament Commission. Conventional disarmament needs to receive a higher priority in its work. International arms transfers is one aspect of the problem that should receive closer attention. Finland supported the Colombian-Italian initiative in this regard last year, and **looks** forward to participating through a **governmental** expert in the **study** on this important subject mandated by General Assembly resolution 43/75 I.

Finland considers that confidence-building measures play a useful role in their own right and also as a complement to actual disarmament efforts - nuclear, chemical and conventional. We believe that the guidelines for confidence-building measures which the General Assembly adopted by consensus last year should be followed up by common efforts to implement them in more specific contexts.

One **such** context is that of naval disarmament. In our view, **confidence-building** is the most promising approach to this complex and sensitive set of **issues**. We are pleased with the continuity efforts within the Disarmament **Commission** on this **subject**. We are somewhat concerned, however, that the

(Mr. Karhilo, Finland)

discussions **this year** seemed to **stray away** from the **search for consensus language into** registering well-known differences of view. The input of all major naval **Powers to the work** is also clearly needed.

Alongside **cop**ing with as yet untamed threats, **such as chemical weapons**, the international community faces **the challenge** of preserving and strengthening the **existing** safety **net** of international disarmament **agreements**.

The operation of **the** sea-bed Treaty was recently reviewed for **the** third time. Finland **shares the view that the purposes of the Treaty are being realized**. We welcome **the** confirmation **that no party to the Treaty has** emplaced weapons Of mass destruction on **the sea-bed**, even inside its territorial **waters**, and **that none has any intention of doing so**.

In respect of nuclear weapons the non-proliferation Treaty remains, **in our** view, **the** single most significant disarmament **measure** undertaken **by** the international **community so** far. Nuclear disarmament is the primary responsibility **of the nuclear-weapon States**. Preventing nuclear war is **the** responsibility of all States. **Every one** of us can, and should, contribute to preventing nuclear war **by preventing the prol iferation of nuclear weapons**. Adhering to the non-proliferation Treaty, and living up to **one's obligations** under it as a party, **are the means to that end**.

Finland looks forward to **the** Fourth Review Conference as an opportunity to strengthen **the** international non-proliferation **régime**. Finland and the **other** Nordic countries **have already** outlined a **number** of practical **measures in this** regard. **These** include acceptance **by all** non-nuclear-weapon States of **full-scope** International **Atomic Energy Agency** safeguards as well as measures **to assure the tong-term** supply of **nuclear** material, equipment and technology in a predictable **manner**, with appropriate non-proliferation **assurances**. We shall press for active consideration of **such measures** at **the** forthcoming Review Conference. We are

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pleased that the preparations for the Fourth Review Conference are well under way in an atmosphere of co-operation.

Finland shares the view that the international non-proliferation régime would be strengthened by the complete prohibition of all nuclear tests and explosions. The key concern of verifiability, which we too share, can be satisfied by the use of appropriate, and available, technical means. Our own research, conducted by the Finnish Research Project on Seismological Verification of Nuclear Tests, has convinced us on this score.

However, we are equally convinced that there is no short-cut to a test ban. Verification provisions need to be carefully worked out in negotiations. The appropriate forum for that is the Conference on Disarmament. The nuclear-test ban is, after all, the first item on its agenda. Moreover, all five nuclear-weapon States are members of the Conference. We do understand the impatience felt by many in the face of the long-standing inability of the Conference on Disarmament to begin work on this issue. However, in the light of present realities, we do not believe that the proposed remedy, amending the partial test-ban Treaty to make it a comprehensive one, is the practical answer.

The timing of the amendment conference must be carefully weighed against its potential impact on the existing non-proliferation régime. The two are not unrelated. In view of the importance we attach to non-proliferation, our clear preference is to convene the amendment conference after the Fourth Review Conference of the Parties to the NPT.

A comprehensive test ban is urgently needed to curb the qualitative refinement of nuclear weapons. However, we have difficulty agreeing with those who, in addition, say that a comprehensive test ban is absolutely essential for the

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preservation of the non-proliferation régime embodied in the non-proliferation Treaty. Linking the two **issues in this** way could do a disservice to **both**. Indeed, **is a test** ban imaginable in a world where there would be no constraints on proliferation?

(Mr. Karhilo, Finland)

As a party to the partial test-ban Treaty, Finland will of course attend the amendment conference and will do so in a constructive spirit. In our view, the amendment conference should focus on giving political impetus to the cause of banning nuclear tests, much as the Paris Conference did to the cause of banning chemical weapons. Finland will assist in any effort to achieve a comprehensive nuclear test ban compatible with the preservation of the international non-proliferation régime - an undertaking which, in our view, is in the interests of world security in its own right.

Mr. AUJOYI (Togo) (interpretation from French) : Permit me to extend our sincere condolences to the delegation of the United States and, through it, to the families of the victims of the earthquake in California. At this difficult time, the people of Togo are as one in their sympathy with the people of the United States.

Anxious as I am to heed your appeal pursuant to rule 110 of the rules of procedure, Mr. Chairman, I feel I should take this opportunity to express the Togo delegation's pleasure at seeing someone as distinguished and competent as you presiding over the work of the First Committee, and to assure you of our close Co-operation as you discharge your duties.

As we move towards the last decade of a century particularly rich in profound changes that have marked the course of human history, we are witnessing a reversal of trends that have hitherto prevailed in international political relations. As if by magic, the virtues of dialogue and interaction are gradually eroding established certainties regarding the appropriateness and effectiveness of the use or the threat of the use of force and the need to accumulate weapons in order to provide a lasting guarantee of international peace and security. We see that the improvement in East-West relations is promoting political settlement of regional conflicts and

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encouraging movement in or accelerating of bilateral and multilateral negotiations on disarmament.

But does that mean that the cold war has been consigned to historical oblivion, that detente is firmly established, and that we are now involved in an irreversible process which will lead us unfailingly to complete and general disarmament under effective international control? Commitment to international peace and security, fortified by a strong dose of optimism, certainly encourages us to believe all that. Unfortunately, because the record of arms-limitation and disarmament efforts is one of ups and downs, and even spectacular setbacks, it is more important now than ever before to show caution, vigilance and perseverance: caution, to be able to gauge the scope and magnitude of disarmament initiatives; vigilance, to identify swiftly any risk of new impediments to disarmament efforts and to find ways of clearing them away; and, finally, perseverance, to overcome the obstacles with which the path to disarmament is strewn.

Even if recent developments in the international political situation clearly demonstrate a growing determination to achieve peace and disarmament, we cannot but recognise that much remains to be done to capitalize on the de-ideologization of international political relations, to dispel mistrust and eliminate the causes of military competition.

While the continuing process of elimination of intermediate-range nuclear missiles demonstrates adherence to commitments entered into by the two Super-Powers, the removal of some serious obstacles to the pursuit of negotiations on the reduction of strategic nuclear weapons is a significant contribution to the continuation of the process of nuclear disarmament embarked upon by the United States and the Soviet Union. We very much hope that these two countries will redouble their efforts so that, as soon as possible, an agreement can be concluded reducing their strategic nuclear arsenals by 50 per cent.

(Mr. Adjoyi, Togo)

We must also welcome the efforts to intensify the Helsinki process, particularly by drawing up confidence-building and security measures and by the opening of negotiations on a balanced reduction of conventional armaments in Europe.

In the interest of disarmament and international peace and security, the international community must support and encourage these good initiatives which, if brought to fruition, will establish stability in a part of the world with the highest concentration of arms.

I turn now to Questions connected with nuclear disarmament. Bearing in mind the high priority accorded to this kind of disarmament, I am haunted by the heartbreaking picture of a young Japanese woman looking for her child after the explosion of the atomic bomb on Nagasaki. The story of Tsue Hayashi looking for her daughter Kayoko has been immortalized in the following narrative.

(spoke in English)

"The morning after the Bomb, and every day after that, from early morning until evening, I walked all over the city looking for Kayoko. I saw many people suffering and dying. It was very sad. I felt deeply the severe power of the A-Bomb. I cannot remember seeing a single other person walking."

(Mr. Adjoyi, Togo)(continued in French)

What would nuclear disarmament efforts be worth if they did not eliminate once and for all the possibility of such apocalyptic scenes recurring?

There are two important, complementary milestones before us in our efforts to halt the nuclear-arms race and bring about nuclear disarmament. These are the conference to amend the partial test-ban Treaty and the Fourth Review Conference of the Parties to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons (NPT). Without doubt, the conclusions of these two meetings will give valuable indications as to the real willingness on all sides to work for an end to the nuclear-arms race and for nuclear disarmament.

In associating itself with the initiative on amendment of the partial test-ban treaty, the Government of Togo wishes to show its deep commitment to stopping the upgrading of nuclear weapons and helping to break the deadlock in the multilateral negotiations on the complete prohibition of nuclear-weapon tests.

Although it would appear that it has its origins in a kind of political realism, the gradual approach has two drawbacks: it does not prevent the upgrading of nuclear weapons and it hampers the multilateral negotiations on a comprehensive test-ban treaty. Furthermore, the appreciable technical progress in verification to date is increasingly destroying the old argument that verification problems would be an obstacle to a comprehensive ban on nuclear tests. From now on, therefore, we must consider opposition to a comprehensive ban to be at the political level, because of the continuing belief in nuclear deterrence.

The Fourth NPT Review Conference will provide an opportunity that should not be missed to strengthen the non-proliferation régime and open prospects for universal adherence. Of course, with its 141 States parties, the NPT has the largest number of adherents of any Treaty. It also has a strict and efficient

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mechanism for verifying non-proliferation. However, the validity, effectiveness and scope of a treaty are measured by the scrupulousness with which the States parties observe their commitments. It should be remembered that it was not to take advantage of the umbrella of the nuclear Powers but to contribute to safeguarding international peace and security that the non-nuclear States voluntarily and in good faith renounced possession of nuclear weapons.

The forthcoming decision whether the NPT should continue in force should not be a mere formality. Rather, at a transitional stage towards the 1995 conference, the Fourth Review Conference should provide an opportunity to seek measures to correct the shortcomings of the NPT, such as, in particular, the complete prohibition of nuclear tests and the conclusion of international arrangements guaranteeing the security of non-nuclear States against the use or threat of nuclear weapons.

Because of the emergence and consolidation of the international consensus in favour of the total and final elimination of chemical weapons, completion of the Geneva negotiations is an urgent task which calls for a greater mobilization of energy and an even more thorough harnessing of expertise in this area. In this connection, it is encouraging that the Paris Conference on chemical weapons gave a significant political boost to the negotiations at the Conference on Disarmament, particularly by its solemn reaffirmation of the validity of the Geneva Protocol and its appeal to the Conference on Disarmament to redouble its efforts to conclude as soon as possible the draft convention on chemical weapons.

By taking as its basis the final declaration of the Paris Conference and by providing an occasion for an in-depth dialogue which promises fruitful co-operation between Governments and the chemical industries, the recent Government-Industry Conference Against Chemical Weapons, in Canberra, was another significant contribution to chemical disarmament efforts.

(Mr. Adjoyi, Togo)

We must pay A tribute to the two super-Powers for their determination to work together for the speedy conclusion of a convention on a universal, effectively verifiable, general ban on chemical weapons. The verification experiment and data exchange in connection with chemical weapons which they have agreed to carry out pursuant to their joint declaration on chemical weapons of 23 September 1989 are significant in this respect.

Experimental national inspections are an important initiative which should be continued, in order to lead to experimental multilateral inspections that could further refine verification techniques for inclusion in the future convention. Although the decisive turning-point, or the familiar pint of no return, has not yet been reached, it is right and fitting to welcome the progress at the Conference on Disarmament, particularly on verification, the chemical annex and assistance and protection against chemical weapons.

In the view of the delegation of Togo, if the future convention is to attract universal adherence it must contain the following elements:

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first, **strict** and effective verification **machinery** for **declarations** Of **non-possession of** chemical weapons **as well as** of declared **stockpiles** and production facilities and the **order** of **destruction**; secondly, **a guarantee of speedy assistance** And protection **against** chemical weapons) thirdly, **strict verification** machinery for non-diversion **of** civilian chemical production to military **purposes**; fourthly , **promoting access** for developing **countries** to the chemical industry **for** development **purposes**; and, fifthly, the **exclusion of** any **reservation** which might **restrict** the **field** of application of the convention or which would **be** incompatible **with its** objective.

We should also act on the idea of **organizing** an international conference' under the **aegis** of the United Nations for the **purpose** of a broad exchange of **views** On the **convention** before it is submitted to the General **Assembly**.

The timely initiatives the two Super-Powers have taken recently are a reflection of the primary **responsibility** they bear in the field **of** disarmament,

In **spite** of their undeniable importance, **bilateral negotiations** should not **exclude** multilateral negotiations **or** prevail over them. Indeed, the increasingly **close relations** between the United States and the Soviet Union should, **as has been** the case in **negotiations** on chemical weapons, **promote** an intensification of: dialogue and **an acceleration of** negotiating **efforts** in multilateral bodies **such as** the Disarmament Commission and the Conference on Disarmament.

In any case, the acceleration of dialogue and **negotiations** in multilateral bodies will of **course** strengthen the central role **of** the United Nations in **disarmament**.

On the strength of its recently enhanced prestige our Organization today more **than ever before** must live up to the **new needs** and the **necessary adaptation** dictated by the **improvement** in the international political situation **and** **initiatives and proposals** submitted in the field **of** disarmament.

(Mt. Adjoyi, Togo)

Among other essential instruments **for** action, the **Department for Disarmament Affairs** must **cope with** the extra burden of work generated **by** the General Assembly. **It is necessary, therefore,** to give that Department the necessary human and financial **resources** so that it **may** continue to discharge its responsibilities **diligently** and **effectively** .

I would **not** like to miss this opportunity to pay tribute to the devotion and selflessness of Under-Secretary-General **Yasushi Akashi**, who **heads** the Department for **Disarmament Affairs**.

In the **light of** the specific features **of** Africa, **Latin** America, the Caribbean and Asia with **regard** to disarmament efforts, the United Nations Regional **Centres for Peace, Disarmament and Development** are the ideal **framework** for the **emergence** and **consolidation** of **confidence-building measures**. These Centres reflect the **common** will to **bring about** stability in these parts **of the world** and **can** make a valuable contribution to the strengthening of world **equilibrium**.

So far the activities of these Centres have **demonstrated** a better understanding **of** the virtues of **openness, co-operation** and **transparency**, as well as regional **requirements** for arms limitation and **disarmament**. **For** these Centres to **be able** to produce appropriate programmes of activities and play their role fully they must enjoy financial stability,

We would like once again to express our sincere gratitude to Member States and international organizations, governmental and non-governmental, which have **kindly made** available financial and material assistance for these Centres. We also take this opportunity **to make** an **urgent** appeal for further and more generous **contributions** to **these institutions**.

The efficient functioning of **these** three Centres also calls for the establishment of posts **at** the director level so that they can do a

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proper **job** of directing **these** Centres. The Government of Ibo trusts that it can count on the support of all **delegations** for the draft resolution relating to the creation of **these posts**, which will be submitted to the Committee in due course.

The **numerous** developments over the last four years would suggest that the **history of** international political relations is going through a **transition** period marked by a better understanding of the validity of the noble **objectives enshrined** in our Charter and the **capacity to** act of our universal **Organization**.

We are happy to note that **disarmament is also** benefiting by this reversal of trends. However, it would undermine **disarmament efforts**, and hence for international peace and security if we were to cherish the illusion that all these decades of mistrust, **hostility** and confrontation are on the way out simply because of certain significant **progress**. Indeed, if we base our selves on the **precious lessons** of the past we must at once work tirelessly to eliminate gradually the deep **causes of** the arms race. It is only then that we shall be able to dream of a world in which the only competition will be to **build** and jealously **preserve peace**.

Mr. BADAWI (Egypt) (interpretation from Arabic) : I had intended at the outset to **begin by** congratulating you, Sir, **on your** election as Chairman **of our Committee** and the members of the Bureau **on their** election, but out of respect for **your** appeal I will comply **with article** 110 of the rules of procedure.

It may be appropriate, **now that** we **are on the** *threshold of the 1990s, the **last** decade of this century, to **ask ourselves a question that has been on the minds** of all previous **generations**, namely, **is there any** hope of a stable world not threatened with military annihilation, especially **nuclear** annihilation, and, if **so**, when will that hope **materialize**?

During the past two years we have witnessed **numerous** and varied developments at the political and security levels. While it would **be naive to expect a solution to all regional problems in a short space** of time following long years **of stagnation during which those problems** worsened day after day, we **have** followed with interest the emergence of a new trend in international relations based **on the necessity of tackling international problems by peaceful means** and **on the basis of a constructive and objective dialogue.**

Some of the most important examples of this new trend **are the** withdrawal of foreign forces from Afghanistan, the continuing developments regarding the accession to independence of Namibia, the current negotiations on Kampuchea - although they have been faltering - and the ongoing contacts and negotiations on the settlement of several African problems, in which my country is playing a major role in helping facilitate a solution.

We have also seen the transformation of relations between the two super-Powers and their allies in the form of movement towards dialogue, coexistence and co-operation in the service of their common interests and those of the entire world. This should make possible the definition of a sound framework for relations

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among na tions and world **stability** and provide the necessary **momentum** for tackling **problems** that have **for many years** proved intractable.

International changes have not been confined to the political arena **but have been** extended to include also the **areas** of **security** and **disarmament measures**. The two super-Powers have **begun to** implement the first convention providing for the elimination **of** a whole **class** of nuclear weapons, namely, the Treaty between the United States **of** America and the Union of **Soviet** Socialist Republics on the Elimination **of** Their Intermediate-Range and Shorter-Range Missiles. **We** have also seen the intensification of contacts between the two super-Powers in **various areas** of **disarmament**, including the resumption of their **bilateral negotiations on** chemical **and** nuclear weapons, and an **af f irma** tion **of their** common obligation to work **towards a** convention on eliminating **strategic** nuclear weapons and preventing a nuclear **war**, which **poses** the gravest threat to man.

Questions of disarmament in various fields have **met** with increasing international attention. Thus European neqotia tione on conventional **weapons** have made **pr oqr** ees, while negotiations on chemical weapons in the Geneva Conference on Disarmament **have** gained a strong impetus from the convening **of the Conferences in Par** is and Canberra. **We** believe that the proposals in this regard put forward **by** President Bush of the United States and the **Foreign** Minister of the Soviet **Union** in their **statements** in the General **Assembly** could have a favourable **impact on the** ongoing neqotia tione.

Egypt hopes that negotiations in all these areas will achieve concrete progress in the near future and **result in a universal, coherent disarmament** convention providing genuine security for the international **community**.

While we have followed with keen interest **every** positive development in international relations and **every concrete achievement in the area of disarmament**, I feel it my **duty to** warn against the **consequences** of allowing our overwhelming

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relief to blind us to the challenges **still** facing us or lead us to forget the framework on which we agreed by **consensus** as the basis on which to take up these challenges.

With the conclusion of the Second United Nations **Disarmament** Decade now imminent, my delegation reiterates **its** full commitment to the **priorities** endorsed by the **first special session** of the General Assembly devoted to disarmament. **Foremost** among these **is** the priority given to the elimination of nuclear weapons and other weapons of **mass** destruction, **thr** need to consolidate the role of the United Nations in this **regard** and the development of multilateral international bodies concerned with the question, especially those **responsible** for negotiating disarmament conventions, such as the Geneva Conference on Disarmament. I appeal to those international **bodies**, in particular the Conference on Disarmament and the Disarmament Commission, which meets in New York, to speed up agreement on **measures** to increase their effectiveness and efficiency. I also call upon the members of those bodies to **use** their **rules** of procedure and the **desire** of all to achieve **consensus** on the questions before them in a manner compatible with the **spirit** of dialogue and the constructive work prevailing in our world **today**.

Egypt proceeds from the view that International security **is** integral security and what **threatens** the security of one State also threatens the security of **all** members of the international community. It **has** therefore repeatedly affirmed that **every** State in the world **has** the right to contribute to efforts aimed at halting the **arms** race and **achieving** disarmament, regardless of the type of armaments involved and **which** State is acquiring them. We have gone **even** further and affirmed that not only is **this** participation a right **which** **States** are justified in exercising **as** they deem fit, but their participation **within** their **means** is the duty of all peace-loving **States**.

(Mr. Badawi, Egypt)

Since the nuclear threat **is** the graveest threat **to our world today**, we believe that the highest priority **must be** given **to** confronting it **and that therefore** nuclear negotia **tions** can no longer be **confined to** the super-Powers and some Of their allies. We believe that, **now that the two super-Powers have succeeded in** concluding the Treaty on intermediate-range and **short ter-r** ange miss **iles** and **expressed** the hope of concluding another agreement in the near **future on strategic nuclear** weapons, **it** is time for nuclear questions to be dealt **With** more **seriously** and clearly **in** the context of the Conference on Disarmament, in **Geneva, and for** increased **efforts** to achieve a comprehensive nuclear-test-ban convention.

(Mr. Badawi, Egypt)

We call upon the two nuclear super Powers to put the Conference on Disarmament in the picture as regards their achievements and to inform it of the stage they have reached in their negotiations On these questions, so that the other States Of the world may derive the optimum benefit from their experience and so that the Conference on Disarmament may contribute to the attainment of that objective in an appropriate way.

Egypt believes that in conjunction with international action in this regard it is time to intensify international efforts to implement paragraph 66 of the Final Document of the first special session of the General Assembly devoted to disarmament. That paragraph calls upon all the nations of the world jointly to take further steps to agree on a universal nuclear-non-proliferation régime. Egypt raised the question during last year's Session of the General Assembly, in the context of preparatory work for the Fourth Review Conference Of the Parties to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons. That Treaty enjoys the widest international support, with more than 140 parties.

Egypt intends to continue addressing the question in its contacts and Consultations with the States parties to the Treaty. It appeals to all States parties, and particularly the States non-parties to the Treaty - we were pleased by the participation of many of the latter as observers in the recent Review Conference - to discuss the question seriously and objectively, while taking into account the contractual obligations entered into by most of the nations of the world in acceding to the Treaty. We should find methods for constructive consultations without resort to the establishment Of formal structures and without prejudice to existing treaties, providing support for those treaties and hence bringing the international community closer to its consensus goal of establishing a nuclear-non-proliferation régime universal in character.

(Mr. Badawi, Egypt)

While addressing questions of nuclear disarmament, I must affirm the importance of establishing nuclear-weapon-free zones in order to make a reality of our commitment to nuclear non-proliferation in various regions of the world. Such zones would strengthen international peace and security. At its last session the General Assembly adopted resolution 43/65, which requests the Secretary-General, inter alia, to undertake a study on effective and verifiable measures which would facilitate the establishment of a nuclear-weapon-free zone in the Middle East. We are awaiting the submission of the study at the next session, as called for in the resolution. We hope that the study will include effective, realistic recommendations, appropriate to the conditions of that sensitive region, in order to eliminate the threat of the proliferation of nuclear weapons there.

We welcomed the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) study on verification measures and safeguards in the Middle East. We also welcomed the adoption by the General Conference of the IAEA of its resolution 509, which requests the Agency's Director General to contact Israel and consult the other States of the region on the imposition of Agency safeguards on all nuclear facilities in the Middle East .

I call upon Israel to accede to the non proliferation Treaty and to place all its nuclear facilities under the IAEA inspection and control régime in order to assure everyone of the peaceful character of its nuclear programme and enable us to take another step towards the objective of establishing a nuclear-weapon-free zone in the Middle East. In this context, we would warn of a grave development in the region, threatening its security and jeopardizing endeavours to keep it free of nuclear weapons: Israel's recent test of a medium-range missile, which fell in the vicinity of a sister Arab State.

While commenting on the importance of establishing nuclear-weapon-free zones,

(Mr. Badawi, Egypt)

I would add **that it is also** appropriate for the General **Assembly** at **its** current **session** to **discuss measures** that the international **community can** take to **implement the Declaration** on the Denucleariza tion of Africa. **This is a sincere** call that **was** made **by** the African Summit meeting in Cairo and **was subsequently endorsed** **by** the General **Assembly** in **success ive r eeolu t ions**, the most recent being **resolution 42/34 A**.

Today I feel duty bound, on behalf of **Egypt** and the other **Member States** of the Organiaation of **African Unity**, which my country has the honour of **presiding** Over at **present**, to appeal to the Member States of the United Nations and all other peace-loving **States** for a concerted effort to eliminate the threat to our beloved continent **posed** by South **Afr ica's** nuclear programme, I **also** appeal **to** them to **co-operate** with African States to make their continent **free** of the nuclear threat and to **establish** a nuclear-weapon-free zone there.

At **this** critical historical juncture **it is** important to ensure that **outer space** be **used** in the interest of mankind and not **for** mil **itary** purposes. That would be one **of** the **foundations** of **co-operation** for peaceful **purposes** and for **keeping** outer space **free of** any conflicts. If we **are aware** of the gravity of the **prolifera** tion of nuclear weapons and their **use** on earth, how can we allow such weapons to proliferate in arenas such as outer **space?**

Egypt **ha8** **submi** tted proposals for filling in the **lacunae** in the **Legal régime** **gover ning** outer space. In particular, it has made proposals to overcome the defects in article IV of the 1967 Treaty on **Principles** Governing the Activities of **Sta tee** in the **Exploration** and Use of **Ou ter Space**, including the Moon and Other Celestial Bodies. The **major** defect of the article is that two legal **régimes**, instead **of a** single **régime**, have been **established** for outer space. In the **first régime** applicable to outer **space** the only **restriction imposed** by the Treaty on Member States is that they shall not **establish** bases for weapons of **mass**

(Mr. Badawi, Egypt)

destruction in outer space; there is no exploitation, clear prohibition of the military use of outer space. The second legal régime established by the Treaty relates to the Moon and other celestial bodies, which are to be used exclusively for peaceful purposes. This means that the military use of the Moon is prohibited, in all forms, but the use of outer space for military purposes is not.

Egypt has touched on these matters in the Conference on Disarmament in Geneva, where it has called for up-dating the Treaty. The Treaty was signed in the late 1960s, when technology and the world were different from those of today. We believe that the Treaty should be brought abreast of scientific developments and the increased number of States which have acquired the necessary technology to have access to outer space.

We call upon the General Assembly to support these ideas, and upon the Conference on Disarmament in Geneva to fill in the lacunae in the legal régime, and to make further efforts in its objective discussion of outer space questions as to the initiation of negotiations within the framework of the Conference on Disarmament regarding a treaty prohibiting the extension of the arms race to outer space and ensuring its preservation for exclusively peaceful purposes, as the universal, common heritage of mankind.

(Mr. Badawi, Egypt)

A question which has recently Attracted the attention of the international community is that of the dumping of radioactive waste and its consequences. The General Assembly adopted at its forty-third session a resolution entitled "Dumping of radioactive wastes", in which it reviewed the grave effects of such dumping. The question was also dealt with by the International Atomic Energy Agency through the setting up of a technical working group with a view to formulating International rules to limit such action. We hope that the group will succeed in formulating those rules as soon as possible. This matter was dealt with, too, by the Conference on Disarmament in Geneva, which emphasizes the interest of the international community in addressing all aspects of this extremely important question.

Egypt hopes that the various international bodies considering this question will continue to do so, each within its area of competence, so that an international régime capable of preventing the exacerbation of the problem may be established.

I said at the outset that there was a question that has often been on the minds of previous generations as well as of the present one, namely, of a stable world without the threat of annihilation. And, if so, when will that hope materialize? I can only say to those who have been waiting and to posterity that hope has emerged and everyone must encourage, support and consolidate it so that it may not be lost.

The answer to the second part of the question will be determined by our desire to live in peace, free from the threat of conventional and nuclear weapons, and our ability to formulate a constructive means of eliminating such weapons and consolidating the principles of international peace and security, which are the very basis of our unity and stability and the foundation of our Organization.

(Me. Badawi, Egypt)

We hope that the current momentum in this direction will be maintained with the same degree of vigour and that, in the light of this new trend in international relations, it will be extended to the multilateral sphere. This will be the real proof of the international community's desire to co-operate on an equal footing in striving to attain an objective of comprehensive and general disarmament under effective international control,

Mr. LUNA (Peru) : I wish first to express to the delegation of the United States the condolences of the Government and people of Peru on the disaster yesterday in the city of San Francisco.

It is a special pleasure, Sir, for me to extend to you the congratulations of the delegation of Peru on your election to the chairmanship of this important Committee. Your outstanding diplomatic skills and vast experience of these issues will ensure the successful completion of our task.

I take this opportunity to congratulate you on the important post which has recently been assigned to you by the Government of Venezuela. That is yet further recognition of your excellent qualities, both professional and personal, which all acknowledge. My congratulations go also to the other officers of the Committee.

It is with special pleasure that the delegation of my country notes the tireless work of the Secretariat, which is represented here today by the Under-Secretary-General for Disarmament Affairs, Mr. Yasushi Akashi, the Under-Secretary-General for Political and Security Council Affairs, Mr. Vasilii Safronchuk, and the Secretary-General of the Conference on Disarmament, Mr. Miljan Komatina, to whom my country wishes to express its appreciation of their skilful and efficient fulfilment of important responsibilities.

Latin America and the Caribbean have established a historic landmark by proclaiming the area a nuclear-weapon-free zone, in accordance with the sovereign

(Mr. Luna, Peru)

decision of their peoples. We are also dealing with the question of conventional weapons, on the basis of regional initiatives, which we are now tackling directly and openly. Nevertheless, we have always believed in security being not only military but comprehensive, embracing political, economic and social elements, not forgetting the important element of environmental conservation. Security is not the exclusive preserve of the most powerful; it should be the guarantee that peoples can live in peace, with justice and dignity.

A short time ago we had the opportunity of listening to the impressive statement before the General Assembly of the President of Colombia, a country which, like mine, is engaged in a continuing struggle against drug trafficking. He clearly highlighted the enormous illicit profits made by the international drug networks, which are second only to those made through the armaments trade, both legal and illegal. This is the harsh reality and the problem of international security must be dealt with in all its aspects and in a comprehensive manner.

The crisis in Colombia, with its serious implications for the region, is a natural consequence, inter alia, of the irresponsible lack of control in the armaments trade whose only motive is the unquenchable thirst for profit. In the context of comprehensive security I wish to draw particular attention to the resources that a country such as mine has to devote to combating this scourge, which has entered into a nefarious alliance with terrorism. Thus, my country is unable to use its resources for the well-being and development of its people, while evil organizations grow richer at the expense of suffering and pain. This is why I urge the States represented here to support the struggle that must be waged on every front, in particular through the adoption of stringent measures of control and verification, to stop that other kind of illicit trafficking that diverts resources from use in the interest of mankind - trafficking in arms.

(Mr. Luna, Peru)

That is why **détente** is not the **exclusive** province of the **Powers**; it must extend to all of **mankind** and, **as a priority**, to the **developing countries** which are the **ones** that **suffer** the **most** from **war** and **poverty**. We **do not** accept the **imposition** of the untenable equation of "**peace among the wealthy and war among the poor**". The **détente** we **pursue** is **détente** inspired by the need to **guarantee** for all **human beings** a **minimum of dignity and well-being**,

The **present** international climate **offers us auspicious signs of détente** and **understanding**. The world-wide trend **towards** **•** **substituting** conflict with **co-operation** is **opening the doors** to a new era in **international relations**. **Peaceful coexistence among peoples** and **dialogue and understanding** are making **progress** in this new world scene. The **delegation of Peru** welcomes with **particular interest these efforts** which point to the **urgency** to replace the policy of **military blocs** and **alliances** by truly **democratic formulas** of **international coexistence**. That is the meaning of **non-alignment** and the **spirit of the Declaration of Heads of State or Government of Non-Aligned Countries**, recently adopted in **Belgrade**.

The **understanding between the United States** and the **Soviet Union** at their **Summit**, the important **achievements** in **Vienna** and the **resolution of several** regional **conflicts** no doubt **deserve our recognition**. However, a **great deal** remains to be **done**, and **isolated forums or exclusive meetings** will not allow us to **advance on the road to peace**. Thus, it is a **fundamental requirement** that all **nations** participate **freely and democratically** and on an **equal footing** in **consideration of the problems of disarmament and arms control**, which continue to **endanger international peace and security**. It is my **delegation's** **task** to **highlight** the **significance** of the **deliberations** of this **Committee**; it must be the **fundamental task** of our **Organization**. The **United Nations** should be **strengthened**, and **special interests or narrow views** **•** should not **supersede** the **noble task** for which it was **created**.

(Mr. Luna, Peru)

Almost 50 years ago, the world was shaken by the onset of the bloodiest of modern wars. In the aftermath, the nations of the world undertook to free future generations from the scourge of war. We deeply regret that that commitment has not been fully met. As members know, since the end of the Second World War there have been more than 150 armed conflicts, more than 20 million human beings have lost their lives and \$1 trillion devoted to military expenditures last year alone could have been used to remove poverty and hunger from the face of the Earth once and for all.

Let us not be deceived. We are still living on the brink of the annihilation of all mankind. The Washington Treaty of 1987 should be a landmark in our efforts to halt and reverse the nuclear-arms race. However, a lasting solution will only be found through an agreement in which all nations participate, for the world is justified in its horror of such weapons. The effects of those instruments of death are indiscriminate; they know no boundaries and do not distinguish between those having nuclear arsenals and those that have renounced them.

We concur fully with what was stated by Her Excellency the Minister for Disarmament and Arms Control of New Zealand in this forum, when she said, "We do not believe that nuclear weapons guarantee our security." Peru views the continuation of nuclear testing as a threat to its security. Thus, my country, in keeping with the commitment it undertook at Tlatelolco and in keeping with the validity of the Final Document of 1978, gives the highest priority to this question, as is shown by the support it has given, together with more than 40 States, to the convening of a conference to amend the Moscow Treaty of 1963 and turn it into a comprehensive nuclear-test-ban treaty. We do not reject any other means, and we shall continue to participate actively in the work of the Conference on Disarmament in this field. However, this is the initiative that seems most

(Mr. Tuna, Peru)

promising today. We are not thus seeking confrontation; rather we are calling for constructive dialogue to help end the vertical proliferation of nuclear weapons.

In 1990, we shall have an opportunity once again to address the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons. Considerable progress has been made since that international instrument entered into force, and today it is almost universal.. However, important asymmetries exist in its implementation and they should be promptly corrected if we wish the agreement to remain valid.

The asymmetries to which I refer are not only due to the indiscriminate improvement of nuclear weapons, but also to the unwillingness of countries more technologically advanced in this field to co-operate, within the framework of the Treaty, with developing countries concerning the peaceful use of nuclear energy. We therefore affirm that it is of key importance for States that have nuclear arsenals and are parties to the Treaty fully to comply with their commitments. In the absence of such a commitment, the consequences are unforeseeable.

Peru, loyal to its principles, salutes the countries of the South Pacific, with which we share an ocean, and welcomes their renunciation of the possession of nuclear weapons. The sovereign decision of those States, embodied in the Treaty of Rarotonga, preserves a vast space from nuclear threats, which must be recognized by this universal forum. That Treaty gives new impetus to the ideals of Tlatelolco and is a symbol of the principles governing peace and co-operation among nations. We reiterate our unconditional support for the Cairo Declaration of 1964 by the Heads of State or Government of the Organization of African Unity, which proclaimed Africa a denuclearized zone. We strongly denounce any co-operation which may allow the racist régime of Pretoria to continue to develop its nuclear programmes, which are a destabilizing element in that continent.

(Mr. Luna, Peru)

The **elimination of** chemical weapons is today at **the** forefront of international affairs. However, we regret that the laudable efforts in Paris and Canberra to give new momentum to the negotiations of the Conference on Disarmament on this question have been hampered by unilateral positions which are not at all constructive. It would seem that the horrible consequences of the use of those weapons, seen most tragically in the recent past, have been forgotten and that ominous strategic games have taken over.

It would serve no purpose to reaffirm the validity of the Geneva Protocol of 1925 if the development, stockpiling, production and use of those Weapons of mass destruction continue as a macabre tool of today's power politics.

In the field of conventional disarmament, Peru reaffirms its Commitment to the urgently needed acceleration of this process. The Final Document of 1978 remains valid today, thanks to its thorough and detailed analysis of all aspects of disarmament and arms control. It cannot be denied that conventional disarmament, of which it is a part, is a priority issue.

Conventional disarmament must be given its due significance, and its benefits must not be underestimated. We do not share the view that appropriate treatment of conventional disarmament has an impact on the priorities for disarmament negotiations set forth in the Final Document of 1978. All parallel efforts aimed at general and complete disarmament under effective international control must be observed, recognized and encouraged.

That demand of the international community springs from its awareness of the serious consequences of regional conflicts, the technical improvement of weapons and the enormous resources used for them, which otherwise could be used to alleviate the suffering, hunger and poverty of peoples, especially those of the third world.

(Mr. Luna, Peru)

Peru **sees** regional effort⁸ to **promote** conventional disarmament as reinforcing what the United Nation⁸ is doing at the world level in **this** field. The **Organization's** activities are not **over-ambi tious**, nor do they have ulterior motives. On the contrary, the **particular character istics of** each region and their conaidera tion **by** the parties directly involved imbue regional efforts with **special validity** and **show that** regional **solutions** can be applied to regional problems. This cannot **but be** in conformity with the right of Sta tea to **co-operate** and **coexist** in peace and to **aeeek** joint formula⁸ of understanding.

The **best** expresaion of the compatibility of regional and global **ef forts** on disarmament is the **important work** being done in various parts of the world by the World Disarmament Campaign. In carrying out **their** noble **task** - the active **promotion** of peace, disarmament and development in various **regions** - its centre⁸ **encourage concil ia** tion and dialogue and bring people closer together. They **deserve** our firm backing and our special consideration.

In that context, Peru attache⁸ special importance to the **question** of the **international transfer** of **arms**, especially **those that are** illegal or covert, **because they** nave a **negative** impact on the **processes of** regional **détente** and understanding. They **use UP** the **meagre resources** of vast **masses** of **people** and at times violate the democratic **legi timacy** of power. Concerted international action **is** therefore **urgently** needed to prevent the **few** from **continuing to raise** the spectre of artificial **threats** for the sole purpose of profit and power. **It i s** also high time **for** recipients to review their **priorities** and **establish** their true needs, States have a **legi timate** and inalienable right to **security**, but **secur i ty** can be achieved only **by reducing arms** and expenditure on arms to the **lowest possible levels**. Only in this way will the ideals of those who met in San Francisco more than four decades ago **be realized**.

(Mt. Luna, Peru)

The opportunities that the new climate of détente between the major Powers Presents must not be wasted. An open, democratic and universal dialogue is imperative and the United Nations is the most appropriate forum for that. States must continue to do what they can to strengthen the role of the Organisation in the area of disarmament, otherwise they will be promoting the asymmetries and imbalances that divide them today.

This Committee must fulfil its responsibilities, and my delegation will make every effort towards that end. Billions of human beings must not be denied a worthy and secure life simply because the people in this room are not able to reach effective agreements that can be respected. We have a duty, but not the power, to secure peace, justice and well-being for those whom we represent.

Mr. GBEHO (Ghana):. Since this is a unique opportunity for me to address the First Committee, Mr. Chairman, I hope that you and the other officers of the Committee will accept the sincere congratulations of my delegation on your election.

I also take this opportunity to extend to the delegation of the United States our heartfelt condolences on the tragic loss of lives and property resulting from the earthquake in northern California on Tuesday 17 October.

The First Committee has begun its work against the background of an emerging change in international relations. We have seen the manifest will of the international community to settle conflicts through peaceful dialogue. East-West relations have shown a tendency to move from ideological rivalry and military competition to constructive co-operation and the promotion of mutual trust.

These salutary developments are, in turn, beginning to make a significant impact in several areas of arms control and disarmament. More than half the intermediate-range and shorter-range missiles covered by the Treaty between the

(Mr. Gbeho, Ghana)

United States of America and the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics on the Elimination of Their Intermediate-Range and Shorter-Range Missiles - the INF Treaty - have been removed and physically destroyed. Bilateral talks on the reduction of strategic offensive weapons have resumed. A major international Conference held in Paris early this year gave a further impetus to the negotiations intended to lead eventually to a ban on the development and use of chemical weapons. To complement these efforts, negotiations of fundamental importance on the reduction of conventional forces and armaments in Europe have opened in Vienna.

These are, indeed, reassuring developments, but they have not changed the sombre realities facing us all. The world is still threatened by massive nuclear arsenals, and as the Secretary-General states in his report on the work of the Organization,

“It is apparent that, even when all their proposed reductions are achieved, the members of the two military alliances will still have far more weapons than all others together.” (A/44/1, p. 13)

There can therefore be no room for complacency. Indeed, it is more urgent than ever before that this Committee redouble its efforts and take advantage of the present propitious climate to ensure that the conclusions from its deliberations gives further impetus to bilateral and multilateral negotiations in the arms-control process.

The nuclear-test-ban issue remains a major disarmament question. It is therefore a matter of deep regret that the Geneva Conference on Disarmament continues to come up against differences in positions and approaches to long-standing agenda items, such as those on a comprehensive test-ban treaty,

(Mr. Gbeho, Ghana)

nuolrar tort rxplaionr, and others relating to the nuclear-arms race and nuclear disarmament.

Ghana continues to attach great importance to the early conclusion of a comprehensive test ban trwty, which is the most praotioal way of halting and de-escalating the nuclear-arms race, since testing is essential to the further development of nuolrar arms. In our viw, a test ban, if it is to be effective, must be comprehensive and rould cover all environments and systems, inoluding so-called peaceful nuolrar explosions. The continuing waves of weapon testing by the nuclear-weapon Sta tes - the Stockholm International Peace Research Institute estimates that there ware 40 nuolear explosions in 1988 - seriously belie all claims that there is sincere commitment to general and complete disarmament.

As this dolegation has often said, we see a comprehensive test ban as the litmus test of national commitment to disarmament. In our view, the current bilateral initiatives of the two major nuclear-weapon States do not preclude the modernization of their weapon systems and therefore cannot contribute to cessation of the qualitative development of nuolear weapons. It is our view also that the two nuclear Powers, which together possess enormous nuclear arsenals, eould do all in their power to reach agreement as soon as poerible on a moratorium, to be followed by substantive negotiations on a comprehensive test ban.

(Mr. Gbeho, Ghana)

In this connection we are happy to note the Soviet Union's readiness, as stated by the Soviet delegation on Tuesday, 17 October, "to re-establish, at any time, a moratorium on all nuclear tests" (A/C.1/44/PV. 4, p. 72). We also express our disappointment at the suspension of its 1985 unilateral moratorium. The joint verification experiments undertaken by scientists from both countries have proved that compliance with a moratorium and a permanent cessation of nuclear tests can be verified. Verification is therefore no longer an issue. We again urge the two super-Powers to initiate appropriate action to end all nuclear tests.

Ghana welcomes the proposed international conference that would convert the 1963 partial test-ban Treaty into a comprehensive test-ban treaty. Far from being a misguided attempt, as some have unfortunately termed it, the proposal by 40 or more Member States represents a considered and well-meaning attempt to convert the partial test-ban Treaty into a comprehensive measure that will advance the disarmament process. The Ghana delegation stands ready to work with like-minded delegations on the initial preparation for convening the conference. We again appeal to the Depositary States that are opposing the amendment initiative to demonstrate their sincere wish for general and complete disarmament by supporting this laudable initiative.

It is our view that the issue of conventional disarmament and the international transfer of arms should receive no less attention in this debate. The ongoing Vienna talks on the reduction of conventional weapons provide useful lessons for a global reduction of conventional weapons to the levels necessary for legitimate security requirements. However, we would observe that since the acquisition and use of such weapons usually follow upon conflicts, efforts must be intensified to eliminate regional tensions before they escalate into major conflicts.

(Mr. Gbeho, Ghana)

Arms transfer has become a disturbing phenomenon that must be addressed. Ghana supported General Assembly resolution 43/75 I of 7 December 1988 relating to arms transfer because of its general objective of eliminating conventional weapons. It is our view, however, that a realistic approach to the problem lies more in the resolution of conflicts. In this regard much depends on the extent to which States adhere to certain principles of non-interference in the internal affairs of others, of the peaceful settlement of disputes and of the promotion of friendly relations at the international level. Open incitement to the violent overthrow of legitimately established governments or to the physical elimination of appointed leaders, or open aggression against smaller States, are not only contrary to the norms of international law but also create a sense of insecurity that may, in turn, lead to the acquisition of arms to meet defence requirements.

The Declaration on chemical weapons adopted at the conclusion of the Paris Conference and the United States-USSR statements on the same subject at the current session of the General Assembly provide useful impetus for speeding up ongoing negotiations on a chemical-weapons Convention. The report on the work of the Conference on Disarmament shows that good progress has been made but that differences still exist on some key issues. We welcome the recent simulated inspection of chemical plants held to test procedures for verifying compliance with some aspects of that treaty when it finally comes into force.

Among the major concerns, however, now that we are entering the final stages, is that the convention be universal and comprehensive. It is our wish that all States adhere to it. In that connection the concerns expressed on the eve of the recent conference held at Canberra have clearly demonstrated the absolute urgency of seeking the views of all Member States on the draft convention. Universality requires that all parties must cease the production and stockpiling of such

(Mr. Gbeho, Ghana)

weapons, including the termination of all programmes of modernization of existing stocks. Anything short of that would spell doom for what could be a major accomplishment in arms control and disarmament.

Ghana shares the universal abhorrence at the development and use of chemical weapons. That abhorrence underlies Ghana's accession to the 1925 Geneva Protocol. We also continue to favour a global treaty that will ban the production, possession and use of chemical weapons and, above all, close all existing loopholes in the 1925 Geneva Protocol,

The Government of Ghana is committed to the peaceful use of outer space and is therefore opposed to the extension of any military competition or activity into outer space. Ghana's stand has always been consistent with United Nations resolutions that have affirmed that outer space, including the Moon and other celestial bodies, is the common heritage of mankind and must thus be preserved exclusively for peaceful purposes in the interest of all nations and peoples. In view of ongoing developments in space weaponry, Ghana again urges the First Committee to call for far-reaching measures that would halt the development of space weapons, including anti-satellite weapons, and would put in place a workable and effective verification system to ensure a ban on space weapons.

Ghana has consistently supported the concept of nuclear-free zones. We do so because such zones have the potential for strengthening nuclear non-proliferation. It is therefore a matter of deep regret that Africa's desire to remain nuclear-free continues to be thwarted by the racist régime of South Africa. The continued nuclear activities of that régime and its allies on the African continent, including the testing of nuclear arms, seriously prejudice this wish on the part of Africa. Moreover, efforts by Africans and their non-aligned colleagues to expel the representatives of the apartheid régime from membership in the International

(Mr. Gbeho, Ghana)

Atomic Energy Agency continues to be undermined by friends Of the racist régime, supported, regrettably, by other countries.

We would like to hope that those countries would at least prevail upon the racist régime to accede to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons. We also call upon all countries that have not yet done so to accede to that Treaty as well. Universal accession to the Treaty is vital for the attainment of the goal of global disarmament.

Several delegations have raised doubts about the effectiveness of the United Nations Disarmament Commission. Those delegations have pointed to the role assigned to the Commission by the General Assembly at its first special session devoted to disarmament and have questioned its contribution to the disarmament process. We would prefer practical changes that would strengthen the Disarmament Commission as an effective United Nations deliberative body on disarmament rather than undermine that body's usefulness.

(Mr. Gbeha, Ghana)

It is gratifying to note that two extra meetings, making a total of six in all, have been assigned to consideration of and decision-making on agenda item 70, which deals with Antarctica. It is a welcome arrangement, which seeks to correct a past imbalance that, regrettably, has previously marginalized this important item in comparison with other items on the Committee's agenda. This new arrangement, although still falling short of our expectations, offers delegation the opportunity of engaging in the fullest discussion of the agenda item. It is particularly welcome in view of the growing international attention paid to that part of the world and to the emerging problems of the depletion of the ozone layer and atmospheric warming - or what is called the greenhouse effect.

We also welcome the proposal to set aside a few meetings towards the end of October for an exchange of views on the chemical-weapon negotiations. It is an innovative and timely proposal which will offer an opportunity for countries such as mine that are not involved in the negotiations to obtain further information on the major outstanding issues. We also see in the proposal a continuation of the practical approach to major disarmament issues carried over from the previous sessions of the Committee. We would like to hope that the experience gained in the discussions will provide a useful format for dealing with other disarmament issues on which progress can be made through informal exchanges of views.

Finally, the overwhelming majority of resolutions adopted each year by the General Assembly address the issue of disarmament. That demonstrates the continuing concern of the United Nations for arms control and disarmament. With the welcome development in the international political climate, the goals of arms control and disarmament, which but a few years ago seemed a distant dream, have begun to take concrete shape. If the United Nations objectives are to be attained, however, tangible progress must be made in all aspects of disarmament. This

(Mr. Gbeho, Ghana)

implies greater **commitment** and flexibility on the part of **all, particularly the** nuclear-weapon States. The **various, differing views** that have been expressed in this debate are eloquent **testimony** to the daunting **tasks before the Committee**. It is the hope of the Ghana delegation that the Committee will rise **to** the challenges of **this crucial** hour and resolve to put forward constructive proposals **that will make our** planet a safer place to live.

PROGRAMME OF WORK

The CHAIRMAN (interpretation from Spanish) I As I announced during the informal consultations on 2 October and at the **organizational meeting of the First Committee** held on 13 October, it is my intention to hold an informal meeting of the **First Committee** devoted to **providing** information or views on the **issue of chemical weapons**. As I have said, this meeting will be held exclusively for information purposes. It is now scheduled for Wednesday, 25 October, at 3 p.m.

The meeting rose at 12.15 p.m.