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STATEMENT MADE BY AMBASSADOR BOGUILIL SUJKA, CHAIRMAN OF THE AD HOC WORKING GROUP ON CHEMICAL WEAPONS, ON THE OCCASION OF THE SUBMISSION TO THE COMMITTEE ON DISARMAMENT OF THE REPORT OF THE GROUP

In my capacity as Chairman of the Working Group on Chemical Weapons, I have the honour to introduce a special report of this Group to the Committee on Disarmament prepared in view of the Second Special Session of the United Nations General Assembly devoted to disarmament. The text of the report is contained in the document CD/281 which, I hope, is available to all the distinguished representatives to this Committee.

I would like to be as brief as possible, as I have always been during our meetings. First of all, I wish to state, that in accordance with operative paragraph 5 of the United Nations General Assembly resolution, number 36/92F, this Committee has been requested to submit to the second SSOD, "a special report on the state of negotiations on various questions under consideration by the Committee." In a similar way, a specific requirement by the General Assembly has been stated in paragraph 4 of the United Nations General Assembly resolution number 36/96A, as far as chemical weapons are concerned. I hope that the report as contained in document CD/281, does reflect the present state of negotiations in the Committee's Working Group on the prohibition of chemical weapons.

The report itself being self-explanatory, I would like to share briefly with the Committee some important points of the discussion in the Working Group which led to the elaboration and adoption of this report. Thus, in its introductory part, the Group wished to refer directly to the paragraph 75 of the Final Document of the first special session devoted to disarmament which, let me recall, stresses the importance and urgency of negotiations on the complete and effective prohibition of the development, production and stockpiling of all chemical weapons and their destruction. On the other hand, the Group wished to refer, rather generally, to all other proposals and documents on the prohibition of chemical weapons which in the past had been presented within the framework of the Conference of the Committee on Disarmament and the Committee itself, assuming that merely listing them all would be a space taking and not very productive task, especially in view of the second special session.

The same approach has been displayed by the Group in elaborating the other parts of the report. Without going into details of its discussions in 1980 and in 1981, under its previous mandate, the Group emphasized the most significant points discussed in those two years as they, indeed, mark very important stages of negotiations on the prohibition of chemical weapons. As far as the present state of the work is concerned, the Group has underlined the importance of a new mandate which allows the elaboration of a convention and succinctly described the topics of discussions for the first half of its 1982 session and the main differences of views and problems which emerged in the discussion in the past two months or so.

There is one thing I would like to make as clear as possible: the Group wished to avoid repeating in this report, all over again, all the various views of particular delegations or groups of delegations on countless smaller and/or bigger problems that emerged during the over three-year long discussions. These are sufficiently reflected in the Working Group's report of 1980 contained in document CD/131/Rev.1, and of 1981 in the document CD/220. Both latter reports are specifically mentioned in the present report of the Group.

In my concluding statement to the Group, I described in considerable detail a possible course of action for the Group during the second half of the 1982 session. In this connection, I appealed to the members of the Group asking them to do specific preparatory work for the summer session if we are to approach as close as possible the stage of drafting the provisions of the convention. I do not want to repeat myself because that statement, in view of the interest shown by members of the Group, has been circulated by the Secretariat as a Working Paper of the Group on Chemical Weapons. But, with your permission, I would like to appeal again for displaying serious efforts by all delegations during the summer session so that we could translate as many dissenting views as possible into the alternative elements and then elaborate compromise elements. A compilation of draft elements and proposed new texts has also been made available to all delegations to facilitate the kind of exercise I am appealing for.

I would like to apologize to my predecessors: Ambassador Okawa and Ambassador Lidgard, for not mentioning their names as chairmen of the Group in 1980 and in 1981 respectively, in the introductory part of the report. I personally was of the opinion that that kind of introduction should not contain all the details I have noticed in the reports of other working groups. But certainly I am for uniformity of reports of all working groups in this respect and I hope that the Committee will agree to cover these problems in paragraphs 61 and 62 of its own report. The same proceedings could be also applied as to the participation of non-member States in the work of the Working Group.

Finally, let me refer to some recent discussions in the CD drafting group. My reply is brief: the Working Group, indeed, has not been directly reflecting in its activities the Committee's plenary discussions. It has conducted its work on the basis of a new, I repeat, new mandate which was adopted with the consent of all delegations. On the basis of that mandate and the programme of work, also adopted by consensus, the group has acted and its activities have been reflected in this report. Let me also say that, exactly, this is the principal aim of the Committee's report to reflect the course and trends of discussions that have been taking place in plenaries. The Group's report, in my view, had to be limited to the discussions in the Working Group itself. References to the discussions in plenary have been, of course, reflected in the Group's work, when such discussions contained specific proposals relevant to the subjects of negotiations in the Group.

As the distinguished members of the Committee are well aware, the Working Group on Chemical Weapons, has entered, with a new mandate, another, sensitive phase of its work. We have held another series of thorough examinations and complex problems. I wish to emphasize, as chairman of this Group, that despite the whole sensitivity and complexity of our negotiations, the work has been conducted in a spirit of mutual understanding, respect and co-operation. For this understanding, mutual respect and co-operation I thank at this moment cordially once more all the members of the Group.

I would like to ask that this statement be distributed as an official document of the Committee, as document CD/286 of the distinguished Chairman of the CPD Working Group, Ambassador Garcia Robles.