

development, production and stockpiling of all chemical weapons and their destruction represent one of the most urgent measures of disarmament.⁷

The thirty-third session of the United Nations General Assembly adopted two resolutions with regard to the chemical weapons question.

In resolution 33/59A the Assembly requests the Committee on Disarmament, as a matter of high priority, to undertake, at the beginning of its 1979 session, negotiations with a view to elaborating an agreement on effective measures for the prohibition of the development, production and stockpiling of all chemical weapons and for their destruction, taking into account all existing proposals and future initiatives.⁸

In the same resolution the Committee is requested to report on the results of its negotiations to the General Assembly at its thirty-fourth session.

In resolution 33/71 [H-IV] the Committee is requested to undertake on a priority basis, at its first session in January 1979, negotiations concerning a treaty or convention on the complete and effective prohibition of the development, production and stockpiling of all types of chemical weapons and on their destruction.⁹

As regards the bilateral talks the Soviet Union and the United States are urged (resolution 33/59) to submit their joint initiative to the Committee in order to assist it in achieving early agreement on the subject. From the wording of both resolutions it is clear that negotiations in the Committee do not have to be preceded by the conclusion of the bilateral talks. In other words the negotiations in the Committee may proceed parallel with the bilateral talks. It is the firm belief of the Group of 21 that the negotiations in the Committee would not hamper or hinder the bilateral talks. Quite the contrary, the parallel negotiations would be of assistance to each other.

In view of the above and taking into account that multilateral negotiations have not yet started the Group of 21 is convinced of the urgent need to establish an *Ad Hoc* Working Group, open to the participation of all Member States of the Committee, with a view to elaborating a draft convention on the prohibition of the development, production and stockpiling of all chemical weapons and their destruction. States not members of the Committee would be entitled to submit to the *Ad Hoc* Working Group written proposals or working documents and to participate in the consideration of the subject-matter of such proposals and working documents.

In discharging its responsibility the *Ad Hoc* Working Group would have as basic texts for its work the draft treaties, proposals and working papers on a convention on chemical weapons presented to the Committee and its predecessors as well as the draft treaties, pro-

⁷ *Ibid.*, 1978, p. 425.

⁸ *Ibid.*, pp. 719-721.

⁹ *Ibid.*, p. 754.

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[IV] the Committee is requested to under-
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The *Ad Hoc* Working Group would
 participate in the consideration of the subject
 proposals and working documents.
 In view of its responsibility the *Ad Hoc* Working Group would
 be entrusted with the draft treaties, proposals and
 working documents for a convention on chemical weapons presented to
 the Committee, as well as the draft treaties, pro-

posals and working papers submitted to it during the course of its
 work by both members and non-members of the Committee.

In order to enable the *Ad Hoc* Working Group to accomplish its
 task the Committee would request the States participating in the
 bilateral negotiations on chemical weapons fully to inform the *Ad Hoc*
 Working Group on the state of negotiations indicating areas in which
 agreement has been reached as well as issues which still are out-
 standing.

In the process of elaborating the draft convention the *Ad Hoc*
 Working Group would *inter alia* identify areas of agreement and
 possible new elements of importance for the formulation of the scope
 and verification of a chemical weapons convention.