

Mr. AMORIM (Brazil):

... I am pleased to read this statement, on behalf of Brazil and Argentina, to welcome Minister Gareth Evans, of Australia, who gives us the honour of addressing this plenary.

Both our countries had the honour and the pleasure of receiving Minister Evans in our capitals for fruitful discussions on these as well as on other matters, which once again showed a wide array of common perceptions between our countries. I understand our honoured guest today, Minister Evans, is interested in listening to as many reactions as possible to his proposals, so we will be very brief. I hope this is not to the detriment of the substance.

The Government of Australia presented us with a revised draft convention on the prohibition of the development, production, stockpiling and use of chemical weapons and on their destruction. Argentina and Brazil take the Australian initiative as an important and positive step towards the conclusion of a chemical weapons convention before the end of this year. Our Governments

(continued)

Finally, I am inform the Conference that the United States is ready, if there is a consensus text on which we can agree, to support Australia's call for a meeting of foreign ministers late this summer to endorse that text.