

Mr. FAN (China) (translated from Chinese):

... Many of my colleagues from different delegations have expressed such mixed feelings when talking about the work of the Conference. Disarmament affairs are no longer the monopoly of a few major military Powers. All countries, big or small, developed or developing, nuclear or non-nuclear, have the right to participate in work on disarmament. The Conference on Disarmament is composed of 40 member States with equal rights. These mechanisms which were established in line with the trends of the time made one feel eager to try for prompt results. It is disheartening to note, however, that this single multilateral negotiating forum on disarmament, as established by the first special session of the General Assembly devoted to disarmament, has made no progress on the agenda items concerning nuclear disarmament and outer space. Although some progress has been made in the intensive negotiations on the prohibition of chemical weapons, a breakthrough on key issues has yet to be made. The momentum of disarmament negotiations must be maintained and the multilateral negotiations on disarmament should by no means be weakened. How, then, can we resolve such a contradiction, which one might describe using the Chinese expression "much thunder but little rain"? It is in this context that many delegations have contributed various suggestions, including suggestions on how to continue the work of the Group of Seven.

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Mr. PARK (Republic of Korea):

... My delegation is pleased that the Republic of Korea has been invited again this year to participate as a non-member State in two subsidiary bodies of the Conference on Disarmament - the ad hoc committees on chemical weapons and on the comprehensive programme of disarmament - in addition to the plenary

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