

(Mr. Hyltenius, Sweden)

This year, 1990, has been a year when the political issues have been brought to the forefront. New important elements have been added to the draft convention, and further substantive progress has thus been made towards its completion. At the same time I must note, like last year's Chairman, that the political breakthrough that many of us had hoped for has not occurred this year either. Instead, previously hidden political problems have been highlighted. This is a stage we must get through in order to complete our work. I can only hope that this will be possible in the near future. Time is not working in our favour. Political declarations must soon be translated into a more flexible attitude and a will to make compromises at the negotiating table.

The PRESIDENT (translated from French): I thank the Chairman of the Ad hoc Committee on Chemical Weapons for his introduction of the Committee's report and for his kind words to the Chair. I should like to congratulate him on the conclusion of the work of the Committee, which has been very intensive during his chairmanship. I particularly wish to emphasize here the personal merit of Ambassador Hyltenius and the three co-ordinators of the Working Groups in their joint efforts to move forward the negotiations in this organ of the Conference. I am sure that delegations will have taken note with interest of Ambassador Hyltenius' suggestions regarding the consultations in the inter-sessional period.

Mr. WAGENMAKERS (Netherlands): First of all, I take pleasure, Mr. President, in offering you my delegation's congratulations on your assumption of the Chair.

We do not know yet when the negotiations on a convention banning all chemical weapons will be concluded. We were more optimistic about a swift conclusion at the beginning of the summer session than at the time when this year's session of the Conference is coming to an end. Nevertheless, we still expect the CW convention to be finalized next year, or in 1992 at the latest. It is, therefore, not too early to consider some consequences of the final outcome of the negotiations. In particular I would like to say a few words about the question of the future seat of the CW treaty Organization, for which The Hague has been proposed as a candidate, first during SSOD-III and again at the opening of this year's spring session of the Conference on 6 February.

After the signature of the convention, a Preparatory Commission will be established to set up the chemical weapons disarmament organization, or "Organization for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons" as it is presently called in the "rolling text". For all practical purposes the Preparatory Commission should preferably have its seat in the same city as the Organization itself. In this way, the Commission could be smoothly transformed into the Conference of States Parties and the Executive Council after the entry into force of the convention. Furthermore, the Commission would be closely involved with the Technical Secretariat in statu nascendi, including its inspectorate and its laboratory.