

(Mr. Ekeus, Sweden)

On 27 August I had the honour to introduce to the Conference the report of the Ad hoc Committee on Chemical Weapons on work done during the regular 1987 session (CD/782). Following the submission of that report, the Conference decided that work on the chemical weapons convention should be resumed under my chairmanship, as follows:

"Firstly, in preparation for the resumed session, private consultations should be undertaken in Geneva by the Chairman during the period 23-27 November 1987 with delegations present;

"Secondly, for that purpose, open-ended consultations of the Ad hoc Committee should be held between 30 November and 16 December 1987 ... ;

"Thirdly, the Ad hoc Committee should hold a session of limited duration during the period 12-29 January 1988."

Today, in my capacity as Chairman of the Ad hoc Committee on Chemical Weapons, I wish to present the Committee's report to the Conference on Disarmament on work done during the inter-sessional period, as contained in document CD/795, which has just been circulated to delegates. The report was adopted in its entirety by the Committee on 29 January, and thus has been agreed to by all the members of the Ad hoc Committee.

Although the time period set aside for inter-sessional work by the Committee was fairly short, the work proceeded in an intense and concentrated manner, generating substantive and constructive results. These have been registered in the report by an updated version of the draft Convention, the so-called "rolling text" contained in appendix I to the report. Appendix II contains papers reflecting the results of work, which though not yet ready for inclusion in the "rolling text" of the draft Convention, are made available as a basis for further work. This part too has been updated in the light of work done during the inter-sessional period. Furthermore, the report includes an appendix III, reproducing some papers of a technical nature with the aim of facilitating further work on the issue of toxicity determination.

Thus, the report I am introducing now clearly reflects the results of the negotiations so far and the advanced stage in which we now find the draft Convention.

During the inter-sessional period time was devoted to the issue of verification of the destruction of chemical weapons. Agreements reached enabled us to include a whole new section on this question in the annex to article IV, prompting a reorganization of the entire annex. Furthermore, I was able to continue consultations on another major issue contained in that annex, namely the question of the actual order of destruction of chemical weapons. Some further useful steps were taken, with the consequential updating of the relevant part of appendix II. More work is needed on this politically, militarily and technically intricate question before we can