

(Mr. de Rivero, Peru)

... First of all, it is easy to perceive the growing lack of correspondence between the items on its agenda and certain regional priorities. It is not that the agenda has become obsolete, but there has clearly been a weakening in the original political will that inspired its members to negotiate disarmament measures under the eight main items. This accounts for the recurrent paralysis of the Conference in dealing with most of its items, as well as the unforeseeable complication of negotiating on such an urgent issue as the total banning and destruction of chemical weapons.

(Mr. de Rivero, Peru)

... The foreseeable results of the PTBT Amendment Conference constitute another factor that should prompt us to moderation. And negotiation and co-ordination between States call for a will and an effort that go beyond mere good intentions. New political conditions must be created that will make it possible for a treaty on the total prohibition of nuclear tests once and for all to be negotiated as rapidly as possible. But this should be viewed as a process to be pursued in parallel with and not in conflict with the question of the extension of the NPT, bearing in mind that the fate of the NPT beyond 1995 will depend on how all its provisions have been respected. It is this constructive spirit and quest for consensus that should inspire the Conference on Disarmament to include in the mandate of the Ad Hoc Committee on Chemical Weapons the prohibition of use of all forms of these weapons of mass destruction. From the time that the prohibition of the use of force was enshrined in the Charter of the United Nations, there has been no place in

(Mr. de Rivero, Peru)

international law for the right to reprisals. The only exception to this principle is self-defence, which is provided for in Article 51 of the Charter, on the terms that are stated therein. It is to be hoped that this year the scope of the future convention will be defined on the basis of the norms laid down in the Charter of the United Nations.

It is my hope that this year the Conference on Disarmament can provide the international community with specific results from its negotiations. The Gulf war places us under an obligation to achieve the virtual finalization of the convention on the total prohibition of chemical weapons. In this context I wish Ambassador Batsanov, who is to assume the chairmanship of the Ad Hoc Committee, every success, and I offer him the full co-operation of my delegation.