

(Mr. Kamal, Pakistan)

Articles X and XI of the convention are of special importance for the developing countries. My delegation has taken a particular interest in the development of the provisions for these articles, and we are happy to see that agreement has finally been reached in the Ad Hoc Committee to enhance their status by placing them in appendix I. This is indeed an important and overdue breakthrough, though some additional work is required yet to further refine their provisions. The viability and universality of the convention will depend, to a great extent, on the final shape these articles acquire before negotiations are concluded.

Even though the text of article X is fairly well developed, our perception of what it should encompass bears repetition. Firstly, an article which does not assure mandatory assistance and protection against the use or threat of use of chemical weapons will lead to an unbalanced convention. Secondly, the system that is established under this article for the provision of assistance should have an automaticity and predictability about it, of the type of automaticity and predictability that is being sought for the verification mechanisms, for the two directly complement each other. Thirdly and finally, a system of assistance and protection will have no meaning without the actual availability of adequate resources with the Director General, which enable him to provide assistance and protection in case of need, and most particularly in cases requiring emergency assistance.

The language of article XI was developed some years ago and will have to be refined to reflect existing realities. In our view, the provisions of this article should incorporate the obligation of States parties not to impede international cooperation in the peaceful uses of chemical science and technology, and an undertaking that existing discriminatory mechanisms will be dismantled once the convention comes into force. As in the case of the suggestion that has been repeatedly heard in this forum, calling on all States to declare their intention to adhere to a future convention even while its text is still under negotiation, perhaps member States who, individually or collectively, apply export controls and restrictions on the transfer of certain chemicals may consider declaring their intention to dismantle these measures for the States who signed the future chemical weapons convention. Simultaneously, as suggested by Austria and supported by other States, member States who have entered reservations to the Geneva Protocol might also consider announcing their intention to withdraw their reservations once the convention comes into force. Such gestures would promote confidence in the convention, and contribute to the objective of its universality, to which we are all committed.

The composition, powers and functions of the executive council are outstanding and thorny issues, and we hope that they will be addressed in an appropriate setting during the current session of the Ad Hoc Committee. Our past discussions have helped us to identify most of the issues and options already. What is now required is the will to strike a compromise which should be realistic and equitable.