

(Mr. Bayart, Mongolia)

The problem of a chemical-weapon ban and the destruction of chemical weapon stockpiles has today become something which could be achieved relatively rapidly. This is all the more true in the light of the Soviet-United States agreement reached at the Geneva Summit Meeting and in the context of the new far-reaching proposals of the Soviet Union contained in the statement of the General Secretary of the CPSU Central Committee, Mikhail Gorbachev.

In our view, the Conference on Disarmament should step up its efforts and make a practical contribution to saving mankind from this barbarous type of weapon of mass destruction by means of more intensive negotiations in the Ad Hoc Committee, aimed at drawing up as rapidly as possible an international convention on the complete prohibition of chemical weapons. In this connection the Mongolian delegation wishes to draw attention to the great contribution made by the Ambassador of Poland, Comrade Stanislaw Turbanski, as Chairman of the Ad Hoc Committee, in making headway in the negotiations on key parts of the Convention under preparation.

Together with the comprehensive prohibition of chemical weapons, in our opinion, intermediate partial measures serving to achieve the general goals are of great significance. In this context Mongolia supports the proposal by the German Democratic Republic and Czechoslovakia for ridding central Europe of chemical weapons and the joint proposal by Bulgaria and Romania for the creation of a chemical-weapon-free zone in the Balkans.

These, Mr. President, are some remarks that my delegation wish to make at this stage in the work of the Conference.

The PRESIDENT: I thank the representative of Mongolia for his statement and for the kind words addressed to the President.

I now give the floor to the representative of Pakistan, Ambassador Ahmad.

Mr. AHMAD (Pakistan): Mr. President, in my statement today I wish to touch upon some aspects of a future convention prohibiting chemical weapons. This is not only a subject to which we have devoted the greatest amount of time and effort over the last few years but one which continues to hold the maximum degree of promise among the various items on the agenda of the Conference on Disarmament. Let me state at the outset that Pakistan neither possesses chemical weapons nor desires to acquire them. Consequently we have a deep and abiding interest in the earliest possible conclusion of an international convention on a comprehensive prohibition of chemical weapons.

The present international consensus on the need to ban chemical weapons has its roots in efforts that began over a hundred years ago with the Brussels Declaration which prohibited the use of poisons and poisoned bullets in warfare. I do not intend to trace developments since then: suffice it to say that we have now reached a point where an international convention banning chemical weapons appears feasible. Given a sufficient degree of accommodation on the part of the leading chemical-weapon Powers, it can become a reality in