

(Mr. Ruoro, Kenya)

The negotiations on a convention to ban chemical weapons have demonstrated what this Conference can achieve if political will is manifested by all States on all the issues on the agenda of this Conference. Even though there still remain certain important issues which have to be thoroughly addressed in the draft chemical weapons convention, the pace of negotiations is encouraging as there is a determination on the part of all States involved in these negotiations to solve the remaining problems. The promise exists that the Conference will be able to conclude a chemical weapons ban convention in good time. In view of the reported use of chemical weapons in the hopefully concluded tragic Iran-Iraq war, we appeal to all States to remain committed to the 1925 Geneva Protocol banning the use of such weapons. The international community must remain committed to eliminating such weapons and to ensuring that they are never again used as weapons of war.

CD/PV.477

21

(Mr. Dolgu, Romania)

In order to ensure conditions of stability and security for all States, reduce the danger of war and achieve disarmament, it is necessary to proceed in close relation with practical measures for the reduction and elimination of nuclear weapons, and the elimination of all chemical weapons. We reiterate our position in favour of the intensification of negotiations for the drafting of a convention on the prohibition and destruction of chemical weapons. In this context I should like to make several comments.

CD/PV.477

22

(Mr. Dolgu, Romania)

First of all, pending the conclusion and entry into force of the convention, States should reaffirm the validity of the Geneva Protocol and undertake never under any circumstances to resort to these weapons. Secondly, the convention should ensure balance, a necessary balance between rights and duties, notably between countries that possess chemical weapons and those that do not. This involves the peaceful, unimpeded development of the chemical industry in each country, the broadening of international co-operation and exchanges among States in fields related to the application of the convention, the development of the scientific potential of each country and its use exclusively for economic and social progress. Our delegation commends and welcomes the re-establishment of the Ad hoc Committee of the Conference whose task is to finalize the comprehensive programme of disarmament, and wishes to underscore the importance of such an instrument for defining the main avenues to be followed to ensure the dynamism of future disarmament negotiations. We express the hope that under the very skilful chairmanship of our eminent colleague, Ambassador García Robles, and as a result of sustained and unflagging efforts to arrive at generally acceptable solutions, it will be possible to submit the draft comprehensive programme as soon as possible for consideration and adoption by the General Assembly of the United Nations. Such a programme, with well-defined timetables and phases, would offer clear prospects and contribute to the strengthening and enhancement of the paramount role that the United Nations is called upon to play in the disarmament process.