

(Mr. Marín Bosch, Mexico)

by, inter alia, increasing the time that it devotes to such negotiations, taking into account all existing proposals and future initiatives, with a view to the final elaboration of a convention at the earliest date, and to re-establish its Ad hoc Committee on Chemical Weapons for that purpose with the mandate to be agreed upon by the Conference at the beginning of its 1990 session'. Resolution 44/115 B, on 'Measures to uphold the authority of the 1925 Geneva Protocol and to support the conclusion of a chemical weapons convention', specifically 'urges the Conference on Disarmament to pursue as a matter of continuing urgency its negotiations on a convention on the prohibition of the development, production, stockpiling and use of all chemical weapons and on their destruction'.

"Thus, less than two months ago, the General Assembly emphasized the urgency of the negotiations on the CW convention and urged this Conference to negotiate with a view to its final elaboration. The General Assembly also stressed that the convention should embrace inter alia the prohibition of the use of chemical weapons. All these points must be reflected in the mandate for the negotiations.

"The Group of 21 therefore continues to believe that the mandate to be adopted by this forum should include a reference to the prohibition of the use of chemical weapons, in order to be consistent with the General Assembly resolutions 44/115 A and B and with the language enshrined in the Final Declaration of the Paris Conference. The phrase 'except for its final drafting' should be deleted from the text of the mandate in order to convey to the international community our full acceptance of the responsibility entrusted to the Ad hoc Committee as contained in the three texts referred to above, which the States represented here adhered to without exception. As the General Assembly and the Paris Conference stated, the negotiations should be concluded at the earliest date. This must be clearly expressed in the mandate.

"The Group would like to emphasize the importance it attaches to all the aspects of the mandate and the conduct of the negotiations which have been outlined in this statement."