

Mr. FAN (China) (translated from Chinese): At the outset, I am most pleased to express my warm congratulations to Ambassador Morel of France on his assumption of this year's chairmanship of the Ad hoc Committee on CW. I am confident that, under his able guidance, the work of the Committee will be crowned with new successes. I also wish to avail myself of the opportunity to express my appreciation to Ambassador Sujka of Poland for his positive contributions.

As far as the mandate of the Ad hoc Committee on Chemical Weapons is concerned, we have conducted serious discussions under your guidance, Mr. President. I have made known the position of the Chinese delegation, including its views on the statement made by the Group of 21. Today I would simply reiterate that the Chinese delegation hopes that this year's mandate for the Ad hoc Committee on Chemical Weapons will see some improvement in accordance with the relevant resolutions of the forty-third session of the General Assembly and the Final Declaration of the Paris Conference. At the same time, the Chinese delegation is also ready to adopt a flexible attitude and to go along with the existing mandate so that the Committee may start its substantive work as soon as possible.

(The President)

I now turn to requests from non-members to participate in the work of the Ad hoc Committee. In that connection, I should like to note that for technical reasons relating to a process of consultations, the secretariat had to prepare the working papers relating to invitations to non-members with a reference to a subsidiary body on agenda item 5. This should be disregarded, as we have not been able yet to re-establish that Ad hoc Committee. We shall consider the references to a subsidiary body on agenda item 5 as deleted from working paper CD/WP.359 and Add.1 to 19. When we re-establish the Ad hoc Committee on the Prevention of an Arms Race in Outer Space, we shall then take the working papers up again to deal with agenda item 5. I shall list those countries requesting participation under agenda item 4, "Chemical weapons": Norway, Spain, Finland, Switzerland, Austria, Ireland, New Zealand, Democratic People's Republic of Korea, Portugal, Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, Denmark, Turkey, Republic of Korea, Senegal, Bangladesh, Syrian Arab Republic, Greece, Tunisia, Zimbabwe (which has also requested participation under items 6, 7 and 8 on the agenda) and Iraq.