

(Mr. Kamal, Pakistan)

convention, those which have given up the option will continue to feel threatened, and the prohibition régime will remain incomplete, if not fragile. It is therefore necessary that the convention should contain effective, reliable and mandatory provisions on assistance in protective measures to States which are either threatened by or are the subject of a chemical weapons attack. The importance of such provisions, particularly during the early stages of the implementation of the convention, is unquestionable. Equally certain is the fact that these provisions will call for inevitable financial outlays. We are therefore astonished at the dilatory tactics of some who seem not to appreciate the integral nature of these provisions vis-à-vis the future convention.

A matter related to the subject of assistance is the question of measures to be taken collectively against another country, whether a party to the convention or not, which uses chemical weapons or otherwise poses a chemical weapons threat to a State party. A reprimand or condemnation by the international community is not an adequate or effective deterrent. It is therefore essential that the convention should contain a mechanism either to make the delinquent State desist from its acts, or at least to raise the cost to that State of pursuing such a course. This matter needs to be discussed further in our deliberations.

Before concluding, I would like to point out that in our enthusiasm to conclude a chemical weapons convention at the earliest, we seem to have relegated the most important item on our agenda, namely nuclear disarmament, to the background of our collective subconscious. Is this because we in the CD have reached a mental plateau and thus lack the political will and the moral determination to forge ahead with the mandate entrusted to us by SSOD-I over 10 years ago? Or is it because some of us feel more at ease on the path of bilateralism, thereby contributing to the sure but steady erosion of the role assigned to this multilateral body in the field of disarmament? Perhaps, instead of the measured sessions in which we routinely sit and talk awhile before dispersing again, we might instead pause and reflect on these unanswered questions. The 10th anniversary is surely a good occasion for us to do so.