

(Mr. Sadleir, Australia)

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Finally, I urge on this body a new spirit of accommodation. Many speakers have urged that we get down to substance, that we spend less time on procedural questions, that we not tolerate political obstacles. But it is time for action, not words. Last week the Committee failed to carry out an important task called for in the report of the Ad Hoc Working Group on Chemical Weapons in document CD/334, namely, to produce a report on the latest consultations on technical issues. One delegation blocked consensus, and did not offer an explanation. There is a risk that those areas where this negotiating body not only can do good work, but actually has done good work, may be frustrated by actions such as these. In addition to the technical consultations it could be that the normal work of the Chemical Weapons Working Group runs this risk. The seismic work of the Ad Hoc Group of Scientific Experts, the direct relevance of which to the nuclear test-ban item has been repeatedly shown, has also been recently queried in the same way. Informal consultations have not, so far, it seems, produced consensus on chairmanships for our subsidiary bodies, despite the existence of understandings which normally constitute the oil that enables our somewhat cumbersome machinery to function effectively. Mr. Chairman, my delegation insists that we get down to work at the earliest possible moment.

(Mr. Li Luye, China)

The prohibition of chemical weapons is a question of great concern to all countries. Over the past few years, the Committee on Disarmament has done a lot of work in this regard and has made some progress in the elaboration of the elements of a future convention on the complete prohibition of chemical weapons. At the beginning of this year, delegates and experts of various countries continued their in-depth discussions and consultations on the basis of last year's results and made some progress on certain issues. This is a positive development. However, we have noted wide divergences on such important issues as "verification" and "the scope of the prohibition", where we still have a long way to go before agreement can be reached. In particular, on the questions of international verification and on-site inspection, to which many countries attach importance, a major power that possesses chemical weapons remains at a standstill. This cannot but make people feel concerned.

Like other delegations, we hope that at the current session the Committee will be able to speed up its pace in negotiating and elaborating a convention on the complete prohibition and total destruction of chemical weapons with a view to fulfilling at an early date the task of thoroughly eliminating such savage and detestable weapons from the earth. The Chinese delegation will continue to make active efforts in this regard.