

(Mr. Ahmad, Pakistan)

... I would now like to turn to items 4, 5 and 8 of our agenda. Pakistan has always supported a comprehensive, effective, verifiable and equitable ban on chemical weapons. My delegation is therefore gratified at the progress which is being made under item 4 of our agenda in negotiating a convention on the prohibition of chemical weapons. Last year and in the inter-sessional period, the Ad hoc Committee was able to elaborate the text of several important parts of the convention under the chairmanship of Ambassador Cromartie of the United Kingdom. Further significant progress was recorded during the spring part of the current session under the able guidance of Ambassador Ekéus of Sweden, notably in the agreement that elimination of stocks should take place only through destruction, and towards drafting texts concerning verification of declarations on production facilities, their interim monitoring and the verification of their elimination, modalities for the revision of lists under article VI and some details of the institutional structure to be established under the convention.

We are confident that the momentum of the negotiations will be maintained during the summer part of the session. A complete ban on chemical weapons now seems to be within our reach, and we would urge all parties to join in an effort to bring these negotiations to a successful conclusion before the third special session of the United Nations General Assembly devoted to disarmament next year.

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