

(Mr. Dubey, India)

Mr. Chairman, I seek your permission to invoke rule 30 of the rules of procedure in order to speak about the subject of chemical weapons. Unfortunately, the current wave of global armament has led to the refinement and amassing of even those deadly weapons which the world thought had been forsworn long time ago. The strange and dangerous dialectic which seeks disarmament through the continuation and intensification of the arms race has, of late, been deployed in support of the production and stockpiling of chemical weapons too. However, the nations engaged in such an arms race must be realizing at the same time that chemical weapons do not make much difference to their real security as defined in terms of their own strategic doctrines. It is this realization which constitutes the main hope for making progress in the Committee in the sphere of chemical weapons.

Since the beginning of the 1983 session of the Committee, there has been a promise in the air that the current year would be significant for negotiations on chemical weapons. We are glad to note that by now a considerable amount of substantive technical work has been done which has helped in clarifying concepts and moving towards a consensus on the provisions of a possible convention banning

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