

Mr. CROMARTIE (United Kingdom): I have the honour to present the report of the Ad Hoc Committee on Chemical Weapons, which is before the Conference in document CD/727. The Committee has continued its work on the basis of the mandate indicated in paragraph 1 of it, which was given to the Committee in the present form in 1984. This mandate embodies the common will of all delegations to elaborate at the earliest possible date a multilateral convention on the complete and effective prohibition of the development, production and stock-piling of chemical weapons and on their destruction. All delegations are firmly united on the great importance of this goal which has been pursued with increasing urgency by the Ad Hoc Committee since its inception in 1982.

The main substantive result of the Committee's work in the 1986 session is contained in the rolling text of the draft Convention contained in its appendix. This continues the practice initiated in 1984 under the Chairmanship of Ambassador Ekéus and developed last year under the Chairmanship of Ambassador Turbanski of establishing a single text which, without binding any delegation, represents the present stage of negotiations, with the recommendation that it be used for further negotiation and drafting of the Convention. Procedurally it represents an up-date of Appendix I of last year's report contained in document CD/636.

As you will see, remarkable progress has been made in many important areas of the draft Convention. The area of common ground represented by text unqualified by brackets and footnotes has been much enlarged. We have new and largely unbracketed texts for Articles IV, V, VI and VIII of the Convention. Considerable progress has been made on Article IX and on the detailed annexes to some of the Articles, notably Articles IV and VI. The credit for these important steps forward is due to the Chairmen of the three Working Groups set