

(Mr. Fan, China)

substantial "rolling text", which represents a basis for the future convention. We should cherish this hard-won achievement. We should seize the current favourable opportunity to resolve the remaining problems rapidly so that the historic task of concluding the convention can be fulfilled as early as possible.

Since its re-establishment this year, the Ad hoc Committee on Chemical Weapons, under the able guidance of Ambassador Pierre Morel of France, has been conducting its work intensively over a broad spectrum of topics in five working groups. This enables us to make the best use of our time to elaborate and resolve political, legal and technical issues as well as those relating to organization, verification, finance and other aspects of the convention. It also enables us to work more thoroughly, in new circumstances, on those issues which have not been examined for some time.

The Chinese delegation is pleased to see more non-member States participating in the work of the Ad hoc Committee on Chemical Weapons. We applaud this development and hope that still more States will join them in the future. China has always held the view that all States should have the right to participate in the consideration and settlement of disarmament issues. The Final Declaration of the Paris Conference also stated that "all States are requested to make, in an appropriate way, a significant contribution to the negotiations in Geneva by undertaking efforts in the relevant fields". The participation of non-member States in the negotiations on chemical weapons is of great and positive significance in working for the universality of the future convention. We hope that the Conference on Disarmament will further consider proper measures to facilitate better understanding of and greater participation in the negotiations on the prohibition of chemical weapons by more and more States.

In the field of disarmament, bilateral and multilateral negotiations complement and promote each other. It is our hope that, at a time when multilateral negotiations on the prohibition of chemical weapons are gathering speed, the States possessing large chemical weapon arsenals will accelerate their bilateral negotiations in a more serious and positive manner so that results conducive to the complete prohibition of chemical weapons can be obtained as soon as possible. It is also our hope that they will provide timely information to the CD on the developments in their bilateral negotiations. All this would be helpful to progress in the multilateral negotiations.

The world has yet to get rid of the danger of chemical warfare. Therefore the prohibition of the use of chemical weapons is still a very important issue. In the view of the Chinese delegation, the future convention should be one which prohibits chemical weapons completely, including their use. Several years ago there was a convergence of views by all parties, after repeated consultations and negotiations, that the scope of prohibition in the convention should cover the prohibition of use. This has in fact been reflected in the preamble and the relevant articles of the "rolling text". We do not wish to see any upheavals or back-tracking on this issue. This year, at the time when the Ad hoc Committee was re-established, differences emerged as to whether the prohibition of use should be reflected in its mandate. This