

(Mr. García Moritán, Argentina)

I deem it important to stress that what we have in mind is not a scheme that would threaten the universality of the convention or indirectly discourage the decision of States to accede to it but, on the contrary, a strict regime of a temporary nature that would cater for the concrete situations that are bound to arise in the first years after the entry into force of the convention.

One of the effects of having negotiated this convention for so long is that, like a historical saga, it has been incorporating elements coming from earlier negotiating traditions and conditions.

That would be an interesting tale if our task were to recount the history of our negotiations, but it sometimes becomes an unnecessary obstacle when our object is to complete the treaty once and for all. Much has been achieved in 1991 in attuning our convention to the signs of the times we are living. The finishing touches are still to be made, however, and in them perhaps a little boldness may not be superfluous.

We are counting on the boldness of all the delegations here and of the Chairman of the Ad Hoc Committee, and we, for our part, promise that of Brazil and Argentina in order to attain the lofty objective we have set ourselves, which is to complete, in the next few weeks, a convention definitively banning chemical weapons.

CD/PV.613

15

Mr. O'SULLIVAN (Australia):

... Mr. President, I should like to commence by applauding the statement that we have heard this morning from the Vice-Chancellor and Federal Minister for Foreign Affairs of Germany, in particular, his injunctions to us to conclude a Chemical Weapons Convention this year. I also wish to say that I fully share the sentiments that have just been expressed by Ambassador García Moritán of Argentina. In particular, I strongly support his view that we need a new sense of urgency, a new approach to our work, some audacity, some boldness and we need to take final political decisions here.

Mr. President, in June 1988, the Australian Prime Minister announced that Australia was in the process of initiating a Regional Initiative on Chemical Weapons Issues in South-East Asia and the South Pacific, with the objective of developing a greater regional understanding of the future Chemical Weapons Convention and its requirements for national implementation.