(Mr. Morel, France)

Mr. Mohammed Gomaa, the Committee has brought to a successful conclusion the complex work that had begun on the basis of the results of consultations conducted during the 1988 session by the Chairman of the Committee, Ambassador Sujka - results which existed in various versions and which did not commit delegations. It now remains for us to resume work on those matters that still appear in appendix II, namely, article XII, on international agreements, whose presentation has been improved, article XIII, on amendments, which was drawn up during the session, and various questions which have so far not been drawn up in the form of articles, namely, the settlement of disputes, reservations, the status of annexes and, above all, sanctions.

Thirdly, regarding the scientific advisory board, intensive work on the part of the Chairman of Group 3, Mr. Rakesh Sood, has enabled us, while remaining mindful of the legitimate concerns of various delegations, to define in article VIII the general architecture of this forum, which had already been outlined during the session. It seems to me - and the course of the negotiations can only confirm this - that we all acknowledge the need to draw in an appropriate way on the competence of representatives of the international scientific community, in order to adapt the future convention in the light of the development of science and technology, which are changing at an ever greater rate. But we are also concerned to avoid the risks of interference between this new subsidiary body and the operation of the tripartite institutional order established under the convention. This dictated a cautious approach, which led to the balanced arrangement described in the draft convention: an advisory role for the scientific board, which does not detract from its importance; linkage between the board and the Conference of States Parties, on the clear understanding that it will act in close symbiosis with the Director-General. The clarification of these basic concepts, which has now been achieved, should enable us in future to make progress on the work which remains to be done in due course, on the board's mandate, its organization and its operation in practice.

Fourthly, thanks to a generous spirit of conciliation on the part of delegations, the Chairman of Group 4, Mr. Johan Molander, was able, in the first place, to complete successfully a substantial revision of annex 1 to article VI, which in its new version, practically free of square brackets, reflects the agreement among all delegations on the specific conditions governing the limited production of prohibited chemicals on this schedule. The régime applicable to schedule 1 chemicals has thus been very markedly clarified. This refinement has, first of all, enabled us to define the framework for authorized manufacture properly, with the possibility of synthesis for protection purposes in a laboratory other than a small-scale facility. It was also accepted that it was not desirable to seek to control laboratories synthesizing less than 100 grams of such chemicals per year, which considerably facilitates verification and enables us to preserve the confidentiality needed by laboratories engaged in research for medical or pharmaceutical purposes.

Group 4 was also able to devote its last few meetings in January to arrangements for revising the schedules of chemicals and guidelines for the schedules. Its point of departure was suggestions presented during the summer part of the session and an initial paper on general problems proposed in