

(Mr. Kosin, Yugoslavia)

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The progress made in negotiations on a chemical weapons convention is encouraging. Let us follow it on other items too. We are about to reach common language in this area. The proposals submitted by the Soviet Union during the first part of this year's session paved the way for agreement on some key issues. Overall, with full realism, commitment and political will, it seems that we are on our way to achieving the ultimate goal of elaborating a convention, or at least that we are securing a level of agreement that would thwart possible steps hampering the attainment of this objective in the longer term. Yet we are aware that there are still many outstanding issues, and that it would be dangerous to ignore their complexity.

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The organization and the method of work adopted in the preparation of the CW convention could, however, be a guideline for Conference work on other agenda items. A decisive point in that respect was the fact that we have not exhausted ourselves in endless discussions over procedural questions, and that the Conference and the Ad hoc Committee on Chemical Weapons have complemented each other in their work.

Much credit for such results goes to the Chairman of the Committee, the distinguished representative of Sweden, Ambassador Ekéus, and to the three co-ordinators, Mr. Nieuwenhuys, Mr. Macedo and Dr. Krutzsch.

My delegation hopes that this progress will serve to stimulate the Conference not to diminish its activities, to strengthen the spirit of mutual understanding and accord, and to foster awareness of the responsibilities of all delegations at the Conference to reach this goal as early as possible. We trust, therefore, that even on sensitive issues such as on-site challenge inspections or the extent of the convention, adequate solutions will not be hard to find, since they are, in large part, already contained in compromise proposals.

The chemical weapons convention should be not only a code of obligations, but also an instrument for strengthening mutual confidence in international relations, which would, in turn, secure compliance with it. For not even the most sophisticated technical devices are able to ensure control based on mutually recognized interests and trust. This fact should certainly be taken into account when negotiating the extent of the convention.