

Mr. BATSANOV (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) (translated from Russian): Thank you, Sir. You have given me the floor in my capacity as Chairman of the Ad Hoc Committee on Chemical Weapons.

Now, if I may, I will move on to introducing the report of the Ad Hoc Committee on Chemical Weapons, which is contained in document CD/1108. It was adopted by our Committee on 27 August. As in previous years, the report consists of three parts: the technical part, appendix I, containing the text of the draft convention, and appendix II, containing material for further work. It can be said without exaggeration that the work of the Ad Hoc Committee on Chemical Weapons in 1991 has taken on a completely new character. The stage has been passed where many doubted it was possible to rapidly conclude the negotiations on the convention banning chemical weapons. The negotiations in the Ad Hoc Committee have now entered a new, more advanced stage. This is reflected, inter alia, in the change in the mandate of the Ad Hoc Committee on Chemical Weapons.

On 20 June, further to its decision of 14 February to re-establish the Ad Hoc Committee on Chemical Weapons, the Conference on Disarmament added to the mandate of the Ad Hoc Committee. The scope of the future convention was expanded to include a fundamental obligation, that of prohibiting the use of chemical weapons. Furthermore, the Committee was instructed to intensify the negotiations "with a view to striving to achieve a final agreement on the convention by 1992". In pursuance of this decision the Ad Hoc Committee has already conducted an additional session of limited duration from 8 to 19 July 1991, and I must add that this was a rather productive session. In this context, I would like to draw the attention of delegates to the Ad Hoc Committee's recommendation that it should continue work on the draft convention until the re-establishment of the Ad Hoc Committee on Chemical Weapons by the 1992 session of the Conference on Disarmament, except for three periods: 9 to 27 September; 14 October to 15 November; and 23 December to 3 January 1992. However, even during those periods, in the view of the Ad Hoc Committee, the Chairman and the members of the bureau should hold active private consultations to prepare the ground for the work of the Committee. There will also be a meeting of experts on technical aspects of the destruction of chemical weapons from 7 to 11 October.

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