

(Mr. Azikiwe, Nigeria)

provisional technical secretariat to be headed by the executive secretary should not only have personnel of professional competence but also reflect the geographical and universal nature of the organization. We are of the view that such an initiative should be undertaken by you, Sir, during the inter-sessional period.

Finally, my delegation wishes to place on record our appreciation to Ambassador Adolf von Wagner, the Chairman of the Ad Hoc Committee on Chemical Weapons, and the staff of the secretariat, especially Mr Bensmail, Secretary of the Ad Hoc Committee, for their commendable efforts and dedication in assisting our work.

Disarmament in general is not an endeavour of the impatient. Hence I wish to express once again our appreciation to all delegations for the exemplary gesture of commitment towards achieving our common goal.

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Mr. NGUYEN (Viet Nam) (translated from French): Mr. President, the delegation of Viet Nam is delighted to see you presiding over the Conference on Disarmament at this crucial stage in the 1992 session and wishes you every success in your important task. I take this opportunity to reiterate our high appreciation to Ambassador von Wagner, the Chairman of the Ad Hoc Committee on Chemical Weapons, for his conduct of the negotiations which resulted in the draft convention on chemical weapons. My statement today will be limited to herbicide problems, and I promise you that it will be brief.

I would like first of all to thank the German delegation for its unremitting efforts to find a way out between the various positions as to the right place in the future convention on chemical weapons for the provision concerning prohibition of the use of herbicides as a method of warfare. The delegation of Viet Nam is also grateful to the German delegation for having provided the draft declaration on herbicides which it intends to submit to the plenary Conference on Disarmament in relation to the forthcoming ENMOD conference. In this connection, my delegation would like to inform this gathering that Viet Nam's position of principle in favour of including the content of the prohibition of the use of herbicides as a method of warfare in one of the main provisions of the future convention remains unchanged.

Secondly, I take this opportunity to reaffirm Viet Nam's view that the idea of including in the convention on chemical weapons the content of the prohibition of herbicides as a method of warfare is a serious, well-founded proposal, for we are convinced that States which hope that the unfortunate experiments made on nature and living beings in Viet Nam in the 1960s will never be repeated will give their firm support. Viet Nam would like to see the content of this prohibition inserted in its rightful place, i.e. in article II of the future convention. However, by way of concession and