

(Mr. Marín Bosch, Mexico)

The past of our Conference contains some important chapters and many missed opportunities. Its present appears rather promising owing to the subject of chemical weapons, but its medium-term future is frankly uncertain. A couple of decades ago, Mrs. Alva Myrdal periodically invited us to think collectively about the course of our work. She described that exercise as a "mapping expedition". We might also think of the terms used by architects before they begun the construction of a building. They talk of a "critical path". Call it what you will, we must devote some thought to this matter. Unlike architects, we would be following our critical path after the building - that is, the Conference - had already been constructed. But on the other hand, there is much accumulated experience and, as we have observed, much good will among the delegates present here, who, if I may say so, form a sort of guild of craftsmen in the field of disarmament. So we must try and see the horizon more clearly. And we must begin by working for the credibility of this Conference. Where do we see here a reflection of the sense of urgency which usually appears in the resolutions of the General Assembly and informs the work and opinions of many non-governmental organizations? A second question is: what is going to happen in this room once the convention on chemical weapons has been concluded? Are we going to plunge again into the sterile pantomime of past eras? Will we then seek some item of little value to the international community simply in order to "produce something" and thereby make a good impression on the General Assembly? In a word, is there life after the CW convention?