

(Mr. Hou, China)

important matters to dwell on trivia or, as the Chinese saying goes, "dropping a melon to pick up a sesame seed". Certainly, we should prevent such things from happening.

Finally, the principle of equality, fairness and mutual respect should be abided by in our co-operation and negotiations. Consisting of a great number of United Nations member States, the CD and its subsidiary bodies should follow the principles enshrined in the Charter of the United Nations in their work. Rule 3 of the rules of procedure of the CD stipulates explicitly that "All member States of the Conference shall take part in its work in conditions of full equality as independent States, in accordance with the principle of sovereignty enshrined in the Charter of the United Nations". Represented here are both developed and developing countries; both European countries and countries from other continents; both countries belonging to the two military blocs and non-aligned countries and countries not belonging to any group. In a word, we have here countries coming from all points of the compass: north and south, east and west, which, due to their different historical and cultural backgrounds and different social systems and ideologies, are bound to have different views and opinions on certain issues. This is nothing but normal. The crux of the question is to co-operate widely on a basis of the principle of independence, mutual respect and sovereign equality, to respect and adopt a correct approach to views and opinions that are different from one's own and to preclude the introduction of political and ideological differences into the work of the CD. In this spirit we can improve our work and keep up with the trend of democratization prevailing in international relations. The Chinese delegation will, as always, co-operate with all other delegations and make concerted efforts to work for the early conclusion of a convention on the complete prohibition and thorough destruction of chemical weapons.

Looking back upon the past and the serious problems we have faced, it is sometimes unavoidable for us to have some complaints and experience a sense of disappointment. However, when we look into the future and remind ourselves of the important mission and responsibilities entrusted to us, we have every reason to be confident. As pointed out by a famous American, "We must accept finite disappointment, but we must never lose infinite hope". We also appreciate the remark of England's Samuel Johnson: "Where there is no hope, there can be no endeavour". We also share the optimism of Maupassant as expressed in his famous dictum, "Man lives in hope". With high hopes let us brace ourselves to meet the new opportunities and challenges lying ahead.