

(Mr. Turbanski, Poland)

We think that one of the specific characteristics of the present stage of CW negotiations is the relative ease both of finding rational solutions to many problems and of losing the very essence of the talks in never-ending discussions on technical details, which could be better and faster solved at a later stage. I think there is a growing understanding that we should avoid the second possibility.

In general my delegation is satisfied with the results achieved, though they could have been more meaningful had some delegations not chosen to slow down the pace of work.

There might be different opinions on the significance of progress in the CW Committee, but I think that at this advanced and at the same time complex stage of negotiations, even moderate progress is a valuable achievement.

In short, there seems to be a good basis for optimism for the summer session, which will no doubt be of crucial importance for the fate of the CW convention. We continue to believe that a decisive step can and should be made before the end of this year's session. We also hope that delegations will use the inter-sessional period to prepare the ground for efficient and fruitful work in the summer.

As has already been pointed out by some speakers, an encouraging development has taken place with regard to the strengthening of the Convention on the Prohibition of Bacteriological Weapons. In pursuance of a decision of the Second Review Conference of the Parties to the Convention, the Meeting of Scientific and Technical Experts has worked out modalities for the exchange of information and data on research centres and laboratories, outbreaks of infectious diseases and similar occurrences caused by toxins, as well as the promotion of peaceful co-operation in the field of biological research.

My delegation welcomes the results achieved, though in our opinion the scope of the exchange of international and other measures could have been broader.

Nevertheless, we share the opinion that an important step has been made toward building up confidence among States parties and enhancing the effectiveness of the Convention.

We hope that further steps toward strengthening verification procedures in the Convention will be taken in the near future. Appropriate proposals in this respect were made by the socialist countries during both the second Review Conference and the Meeting of Scientific and Technical Experts.