

(Mr. Tellalov, Bulgaria)

Bulgaria has always held the view that all States, be they nuclear or non-nuclear, big or small, aligned or non-aligned, developed or developing, can and should make their contribution to the efforts to reduce the military threat and strengthen international peace and security. We attach great importance to the initiatives aimed at fostering a climate of mutual understanding and confidence in the Balkans, at consolidating good-neighbourly relations in our region. For some years now, Bulgaria, together with other Balkan countries, has been working to turn the Balkans into a nuclear-weapon-free zone. Most recently, on 23 December 1985, the Heads of State of Bulgaria and Romania -- Todor Zhivkov and Nicolae Ceauşescu -- came out, in a Joint Declaration, with a new initiative: to transform the Balkans into a zone free of chemical weapons. In this Declaration-Appeal to the leaders of the Balkan countries, circulated as document CD/648, they proposed to start without delay negotiations on the conclusion of an agreement among the Balkan countries to prohibit testing, production, acquisition and storage of any type of chemical weapons on their respective territories. We believe that the implementation of this proposal, as an interim measure, would provide an impetus to freeing the whole of Europe of a category of extremely dangerous weapons, and would contribute to the successful conclusion of a convention to prohibit and eliminate chemical weapons -- an important task of a global nature.

The same is valid also for the initiative of the Governments of the German Democratic Republic and Czechoslovakia aimed at the establishment of a CW-free zone in Central Europe, which the Bulgarian Government wholeheartedly supports.

(Mr. Ahmad, Pakistan)

My delegation agrees with the Soviet assessment that negotiations for a convention banning chemical weapons have been unreasonably protracted and need to be intensified. My Government continues to adhere to the objective of a convention comprehensively prohibiting chemical weapons and providing for the destruction of their stockpiles, production facilities and delivery systems. We fear that bringing partial measures for discussion in the Conference on Disarmament will divert attention away from the main goal. Moreover, such measures may erode the political will to attain the agreed objective of total elimination of chemical weapons. An arrangement for non-transfer of chemical weapons and their non-deployment in other States or any other similar interim measure should best be negotiated and concluded among the chemical-weapon States themselves without involving the Conference on Disarmament or non-chemical-weapon States. This would allow the Conference to continue to concentrate its efforts on the objective of a comprehensive chemical weapons convention.