

(Mr. Afande, Kenya)

The effective prohibition of chemical weapons has been on the agenda of the Conference for a number of years now, and although considerable progress has already been achieved on the technical issues relating to a ban on chemical weapons, there are some areas that need to be resolved. My delegation shares the optimism that a comprehensive convention which would outlaw the development, production, stockpiling, storage and use of those weapons and provide for destruction of existing stocks can be effectively concluded. It is our earnest hope that the Conference will overcome the major political difficulties and resolve the divergent views that have emerged in the crucial area of verification. We thank Ambassador Turbanski, the distinguished representative of Poland, for his skill and ability in guiding the Ad Hoc Committee on Chemical Weapons during the Conference's 1985 session and welcome the decision to re-establish the Ad Hoc Committee during the 1986 session under Ambassador Cromartie, the distinguished representative of the United Kingdom. Being aware that even developing countries can manufacture chemical weapons on a large scale, Kenya supports measures which can bring about the earliest conclusion of a convention to prohibit them and will, in this regard give Ambassador Cromartie our maximum co-operation in his challenging task. My delegation also notes, with satisfaction, the continuation of the Ad Hoc Committee on the Comprehensive Programme of Disarmament under Ambassador García Robles, the distinguished representative of Mexico. My delegation pledges to give him the necessary co-operation and urges others to do the same in order to enable the Ad Hoc Committee to complete its work this year, as scheduled, with a view to leading to a general and complete disarmament under effective international control.

CD/PV.340

30

Mr. KAMYAB (Islamic Republic of Iran): Mr. President, as this is the first occasion that my delegation has taken the floor in the course of the present session of the Conference on Disarmament, I would like to congratulate you on your assumption of the Presidency of the Conference for the month of February. I wish you every success. I also take this opportunity to express my appreciation to your predecessor, the distinguished Ambassador of Argentina, and to offer my words of welcome to our new colleagues in the Conference on Disarmament.

It was not my intention to take the floor at our meeting today, but unfortunately some extremely sad developments concerning the use of chemical weapons prompted me to seek the floor in order to inform the Conference as a matter of urgency of these developments. According to information that I have received from my capital, the Iraqi Régime, once again, has engaged in a massive use of chemical weapons against the civilian and military sectors of the population of the Islamic Republic of Iran. The scale and frequency of this use of chemical weapons are both large and numerous. Most recently, on