

(Mr. Herder, German Democratic Republic)

We share the concern of many delegations about this dangerous development and join their request that the problem should be carefully studied and solved on a priority basis. A situation has to be avoided where attention is concentrated only on the declaration and destruction of facilities for the production of traditional chemical weapons, while the same is not sufficiently guaranteed for the most modern chemical weapons.

In view of this situation, we should look for a solution which would eliminate this imbalance and bring positions on the timing of the declarations for chemical weapons production facilities closer together.

A possible solution could be to elaborate specific measures with regard to production facilities for binary weapons, namely, to declare their location and to destroy them earlier than other facilities. Such a procedure would give all other States parties to the convention confidence that this new kind of chemical weapon does not exist any more. This approach would, in fact, not place those who have binary weapons in an unequal situation. On the contrary, it would improve conditions for elaborating and implementing the convention. Therefore, my delegation proposes that the convention provide for the declaration of the location of production facilities for binary chemical weapons during the first year after its entry into force. They should be destroyed in the course of the first two years.

The Committee has before it a working paper containing the final summary report of the International Symposium on Herbicides and Defoliants in War: The Long-Term Effects on Man and Nature, held in Ho Chi Minh City from 13 to 20 January 1983, which has just been introduced by Ambassador Sold Vila. Scientists of my country participated in this Conference. We highly appreciate its results. There is no doubt that the results of this symposium are directly linked with our efforts to elaborate a convention on the prohibition of chemical weapons. They therefore deserve our special attention. Proceeding from this consideration, we would like to suggest that you, Comrade Chairman, should hold consultations with a view to inviting representatives from Viet Nam to explain in a more detailed way the results of the above-mentioned symposium.

Concluding my remarks, I would like to express the readiness of my delegation to offer in the Working Group on Chemical Weapons additional comments on questions referring to the drafting of the convention.