

(Mr. Azambuja, Brazil)

In this regard, I would like to recall the words pronounced by Mr. Roberto de Abreu Sodré, Minister of External Relations of Brazil, at the Paris Conference:

"Concern regarding recourse to chemical weapons must be inscribed in the wider frame of the interdiction of use and threat of use of any weapon, be it conventional or nuclear, for the solution of conflicts - a rule of international law incorporated in the Charter of the United Nations. The engagement through which we try to realize the goal of disarmament in the field of chemical weapons must have its counterpart in other realms, specifically in the nuclear one."

As I said before, 1989 begins with good winds filling our sails. After the Paris Conference, we are all solemnly committed to conclude at the earliest date the convention on the comprehensive prohibition of chemical weapons. We know there is no other way, no parallel track. The Brazilian delegation hopes to see this new engagement of the international community reflected in the work of the Ad hoc Committee on Chemical Weapons.

The work carried out during the inter-sessional period already furnished proof that things are moving. Under the chairmanship of Ambassador Sujka of Poland, the three working group chairmen made us advance in some relevant points of our agenda. We would like to single out the work done in Group C, under the co-ordination of Mr. Numata of the Japanese delegation, especially taking into account the sensitivity of the main item tackled therein - "Guidelines for the conduct of challenge inspections". While my delegation agrees that these guidelines should be seen in the light of the principles of on-site inspection on challenge still contained in appendix II, it should be recognized that the discussions were enriching and that the different and diverging points of view expressed were very even-handedly reflected in the text finally included in appendix I.

Many important parts of our "rolling text" could not be addressed, for obvious reasons, in the short period between sessions. They should be dealt with in the coming weeks. At this juncture, I would like to underline that my delegation considers that the time has come to address more forcefully the issue of economic and technological development, which is the core of article XI of our draft, still in appendix II. Some resistance to the basic concept of the article seems to be withering away. This would be a most welcome development, for this article, as well as article X, constitutes a key to the universality of our future convention. We think that economic and technological co-operation, besides its intrinsic merits, can serve also as a significant confidence-building measure. As stated in the "Guidelines for confidence-building measures" adopted by the United Nations Disarmament Commission at its 1988 session, and endorsed in resolution 43/78 H, "since confidence relates to a wide spectrum of activities in the interaction among States, a comprehensive approach is indispensable and confidence-building is necessary in the political, military, economic, social, humanitarian and cultural fields" (paragraph 1.3.2.2). The document goes on to state (paragraph 2.3.1) that "confidence in international relations is based on the belief in the co-operative disposition of other States. Confidence will increase to the extent that the conduct of States, over time, indicates their willingness to practise non-aggressive and co-operative behaviour".