

Mr. FAN (China) (translated from Chinese):

... Today I would like to present some of the Chinese delegation's views with regard to the negotiations on the prohibition of chemical weapons. The current session of the CD is being held in favourable international circumstances. At present the international situation is witnessing a significant change, turning from confrontation to dialogue and from tension to relaxation. This may herald the dawning of a new period favourable to the maintenance of world peace and the promotion of social and economic development. Such an international environment augurs well for progress in the negotiations on the banning of chemical weapons.

The Paris Conference convened at the beginning of this year, and its Final Declaration adopted by consensus, have added new impetus to the negotiations on the prohibition of chemical weapons. Banning such weapons has become a matter of great significance for all countries in the world. The States participating in that Conference solemnly declared in the Final Declaration that they are "determined to prevent any recourse to chemical weapons by completely eliminating them", demonstrating thereby the collective will of the international community in calling for the total prohibition of chemical weapons. The Final Declaration also called on the Conference on Disarmament in Geneva "to redouble its efforts, as a matter of urgency, to resolve expeditiously the remaining issues and to conclude the convention at the earliest date". The Conference on Disarmament, for its part, should respond to such a call with concrete actions so as to realize the lofty goal of the complete prohibition of chemical weapons at an early date.

The negotiations on chemical weapons have traversed a long and tortuous road. In recent years, obvious progress has been made. As a result of the sustained efforts of all the member States of the CD, the conclusion of a convention has become more likely now. We already have in our hands a quite

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