

(The President)

I should like now to turn to agenda item 4. The secretariat has also circulated today a draft decision which is contained in document CD/WP.401, concerning the re-establishment of the Ad Hoc Committee on Chemical Weapons. I now put document CD/WP.401 before the Conference for decision. If there is no objection, I shall take it that the Conference adopts the draft decision.

It was so decided.

The PRESIDENT: I now turn to the chairmanship of the Ad Hoc Committee. I understand that there is consensus on the appointment of Minister Serguei Batsanov of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics as Chairman of the Ad Hoc Committee. I invite you to formalize that decision.

It was do decided.

The PRESIDENT: I wish to extend congratulations to Minister Batsanov on behalf of the Conference on his appointment to the chairmanship of that subsidiary body. I further wish him a successful tenure of office in the negotiations on one of the priority items on our agenda.

I now give the floor to the representative of Peru, as Co-ordinator for the Group of 21 on item 4.

Mr. CALDERON (Peru) (translated from Spanish): On behalf of the Group of 21, I would like to make the following statement with regard to the re-establishment of the Ad Hoc Committee on Chemical Weapons. With your permission, Mr. President, I shall read out the statement in English.

(continued in English)

"On 7 February 1991 the Group of 21 made a statement with regard to the mandate of the Ad Hoc Committee on Chemical Weapons. It set forth its position in relation to the necessity of including the question of the total prohibition of use of chemical weapons in the mandate of the Ad Hoc Committee on Chemical Weapons that we have just re-established. The Group of 21 has joined the consensus this morning on the draft mandate proposed in order to ensure the prompt resumption of the important work of the Ad Hoc Committee on Chemical Weapons. However, we deeply regret that the mandate of the Ad Hoc Committee on Chemical Weapons does not include specific reference to the prohibition of use of chemical weapons. The Group of 21 continues to believe that, as the draft convention covers the issue of the prohibition of use, this should also be clearly reflected in the mandate of the Ad Hoc Committee."