(Mr. Nguyen Di Nien, Socialist Republic of Viet Nam)

We have now before us a number of practical and reasonable proposals in the nuclear and other fields to form the basis of the work of the Conference. It is increasingly clear that compliance and verification are no longer

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(Mr. Nguyen Di Nien, Socialist Republic of Viet Nam)

obstacles and should not be used as excuses to hold back or hamper negotiations on a comprehensive nuclear-test-ban treaty or on a new convention on the prohibition of chemical weapons. As shown by the past realities, the effectiveness of the Conference and new breakthroughs demand the political will of all the parties involved.

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A little over 15 years ago, on 10 April 1972, in London, Moscow and ... Washington, the Convention designed to eliminate biological and toxin weapons was opened for signature. In its preamble, the States parties to that instrument placed on record their conviction that the agreement enshrined in it represented only a first step towards the achievement of another, much broader agreement which was to be defined in article IX of the Convention in the following terms, and I quote:

"Each State party to this Convention affirms the recognized objective of effective prohibition of chemical weapons and, to this end, undertakes to continue negotiations in good faith with a view to reaching early agreement on effective measures for the prohibition of their development,

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