

(Mr. Kusuma-Atmadja, Indonesia)

As testimony to our political will and commitment to ban chemical weapons, which are second only to nuclear weapons in their lethal power, Indonesia acceded to the 1925 Geneva Protocol without reservations as early as 1971. Remnants of old chemical weapons found subsequently in Indonesia were those left behind by the Dutch army during the Second World War, and these were destroyed with the exemplary co-operation of the Government of the Netherlands in 1979.

It is therefore natural that Indonesia, as a country which has never possessed chemical weapons, seeks the early finalization of the ongoing negotiations on a chemical weapons convention. Such an accord should not only ban these weapons but also provide for a sound verification régime, including provisions for a fact-finding mission to be sent upon request to a site where serious non-compliance is suspected. Furthermore, the Convention must uphold the principle of equality of nations. In this respect it should ensure that all States parties have equal rights and obligations in overseeing its proper implementation. For this purpose we should establish a General Conference or Consultative Committee whose decisions will be upheld by States parties and the organs of the Convention. Finally, while preventing the future production of chemical weapons, we should also ensure that the Convention will not unduly interfere with the activities of States in the field of chemical industries for peaceful purposes. On the contrary, it should in our view promote and foster international co-operation in the advancement of these industries for the benefit of all countries.

I am pleased to observe that the negotiations are moving encouragingly towards these goals. At this juncture, I would like to extend our deep appreciation to the Chairman of the Committee on Chemical Weapons, Ambassador Ekéus of Sweden, and his assistants Dr. Krutzsch of the German Democratic Republic, Mr. Nieuwenhuys of Belgium and Mr. Macedo of Mexico, as well as the members of the Committee.