

(Mr. Elaraby, Egypt)

thereby, somehow, eternalized in a comprehensive chemical weapons convention. Such attempts should be resisted in order to establish one universally applicable convention with enhanced effectiveness.

It is clear to my delegation from the divergence of positions on this question that the problem is not of a legal character, it is political. Given the nature of the prevailing positions an acceptable compromise has not yet materialized. It seems appropriate to propose that concerned delegations should consult further on this matter.

With respect to reservations, it is the view of my delegation that there should be no reservations attached to the chemical weapons convention. If however, such a view is not accepted, my delegation believes that reservations should be confined to certain provisions only, and that they should be compatible with, not derogate from, the scope and purposes of the convention.

This year the Ad hoc Committee undertook work on another issue of importance, that of "sanctions", through its Working Group on Legal and Political Questions. The discussion of this question has clearly demonstrated the highly delicate political nature of the problem, which needs to be further addressed in order to clarify additionally the issues involved and try to find appropriate solutions to them. Egypt, for its part, would like to see provisions containing specific measures to be applied should any State (party or non-party) violate the provisions of the convention. We would also like to have guarantees to ensure that sanctions are applied effectively and without discrimination or delay. Sanctions should not in our view be construed only as a device for punishment. We believe the reference to sanctions encompasses a more comprehensive approach that could provide requisite elements of security for States.

On the question of security a clear distinction should be drawn between nuclear and chemical weapons. The nature and consequences of the use of chemical weapons are more limited in scope, and the international community should not, in our view, limit itself to negative assurances in the manner followed with respect to the NPT when Security Council resolution 255 was adopted in 1968. The chemical weapons convention should aim much higher. Positive and credible assurances should be the ultimate objective.

Another crucial part of the convention which has not been dealt with this year is the question of "jurisdiction and control". This topic is at an early stage of consideration, and we are of the view that this issue should be the subject of relevant provisions in the convention.

Another area which Egypt is following closely is the negotiations on organizational aspects. The Executive Council, which will be the principal political organ of the international organization, is of great importance. I wish once again to thank the Chairman of the Ad hoc Committee for his efforts to conduct consultations on this very important subject.

The Executive Council remains for most members of this Conference one of the most important issues. We believe that its size should be determined on the basis of the limits of the functional requirements, that is to say the rapidity of convening meetings and the ability to undertake timely