

Mr. DONOWAKI (Japan):

The purpose of my intervention is, of course, to state the position of my Government on the question raised by the previous speaker. I listened with much interest to the statement that the Chinese Government has great interest in achieving the chemical weapons convention this year, and was very encouraged by the reference to the four-nation proposal on challenge inspection to which the Chinese Government has been giving serious consideration, since Japan is one of the co-sponsors of the four-nation proposal. I am very much encouraged by that fact. On the question of old and abandoned chemical weapons, my delegation has taken a consistent policy for some time, but perhaps it is important to repeat it to help achieve an early conclusion of the negotiations. The purpose of our negotiations, as the previous speaker pointed out, is to achieve a convention which will effectively destroy existing chemical weapons. Of course, we know that some States have a large stock of chemical weapons. One of the major purposes of the convention is to deal with these. At the same time, however, we should also take into account the importance of destroying old and abandoned chemical weapons. The purpose of the convention is also, in the long term, to prevent the production of chemical weapons by introducing a system to check compliance with it - a very complicated task. That is why our negotiations are going through very difficult phases. So these are the broad objectives of our convention which should be formulated in such a way that there will be no gaps or loopholes in achieving this purpose.

We have to make sure that all possible cases of old and abandoned chemical weapons will be covered by the convention, not only those referred to in the working paper submitted concerning our two countries, but also others - and each case is different. For that reason, the work and consultations being conducted by Friend of the Chair Ambassador Brotodiningrat of Indonesia are very important, and we highly appreciate the efforts he is making. My delegation will make every constructive effort to cooperate with him in finding an early solution, together with other countries.

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