

(Mr. Sutresna, Indonesia)

After listening to the enlightening statements by the distinguished delegations in this Committee, my delegation has become more convinced than ever that the work of the Committee on chemical weapons has the best prospect for further progress. I fully share the views expressed by many delegations that the Committee, through the Working Group on Chemical Weapons, should make serious efforts to resolve the main differences and take appropriate steps to ensure that the drafting of the possible provisions of a future comprehensive convention on the matter can be initiated during this session. The statements made by Ambassador Issraelyan, the head of the Soviet delegation, on 22 February, and by Ambassador Fields, the head of the United States delegation, on 10 February, have indeed given us further encouragement, for which my delegation is very appreciative. The agreement expressed by the Soviet delegation to the inclusion of the prohibition of the use of chemical weapons in the provisions dealing with the scope of the future convention on the prohibition of chemical weapons is clearly a concrete contribution of that delegation in making real progress in the work of the Working Group on Chemical Weapons, complementing its previous contribution contained in document CD/294 entitled "Basic provisions of a convention on the prohibition of the development, production and stockpiling of chemical weapons and on their destruction".

A similar valuable contribution has been made by the United States delegation in document CD/343 introduced on 10 December, entitled "United States detailed views on the contents of a chemical weapons ban". The document contains an important feature relating to the scope of the prohibition which, as my delegation interprets it, constitutes an advance from that delegation's earlier position on the prohibition of the use of chemical weapons.

As one of the delegations which persistently advocate the importance of the prohibition of use, my delegation heartily welcomes this important development. I am convinced that the two important documents proposed and others that may come together with the work done so far by the Working Group on Chemical Weapons as contained in the report of the Committee on its 1982 session, will provide a sound basis for making real progress toward the elaboration of a comprehensive convention on the prohibition of chemical weapons.