

(Mr. Batsanov, Russian Federation)

positions on the part of participants have been eliminated. This concerns primarily the inclusion of definitions relating to the chemical industry in article II "Definitions and Criteria", and the "footnote purge" of articles XVII "Signature", XIX "Accession" and XXI "Entry into Force". Thus, for the first time in the history of the negotiations, we now have all the articles of the draft convention formulated in treaty language. Of course, many of them are open to further considerable work. The status of the various elements is not the same and I should like to stress that in my opinion more could have been achieved during the past year. Progress in the solution of a number of important issues turned out to be less significant than might have been expected. Evidently, the Chairman too did not exploit all the opportunities that presented themselves in the negotiating process.

But, be that as it may, I believe that we now have a real prospect of completing the negotiations successfully in the course of 1992. At the same time, unless the pace of agreeing our positions on substance increases in the very near future, this opportunity too may become uncertain. We are now coming under extreme time pressure and all of us must clearly bear this in mind. The success or failure of the negotiations will not only mean the realization or the abandonment of the idea of creating a world free from chemical weapons, with all the consequences of either for the security of every one of our countries, but also will have a most telling impact on the dynamics of the disarmament process as a whole, on the attitude of Governments to the potential of multilateral diplomacy in the field of disarmament and, if you will, on the fate of our forum, the Conference on Disarmament.

Therefore, the time has come in the negotiations on chemical weapons to separate the primary from the secondary, the priority tasks from issues which can be put off to a later time without harm to our goal or to one's positions, to separate real from fancied interests and real concerns from bargaining chips. Indeed, just to solve highly complex problems of principle requires immense pressure, unorthodox attitudes, inventiveness and a willingness to make mutual concessions on the part of the participants in the negotiations and the members of the Ad Hoc Committee and its Bureau headed by its Chairman.

I venture to express the view that at this stage special attention and efforts are demanded by such issues as challenge inspections, verification in commercial industry, the future of export control measures, the composition of the executive council and the problem of so-called "old" chemical weapons.

It should also be borne in mind that the present "rolling text" is the result of years of effort. Some of its provisions do not form the happiest combination with others. They, or other sections and wordings reflect concepts and a vision of security and of the objectives of the future convention that differ as to the time of their formulation and as to substance. Some of them may no longer entirely correspond to the new realities. Therefore, this material needs to be reduced to a common denominator.