

(Mr. Chirila, Romania)

of the Group of 21 at the first plenary meeting of the session by Ambassador Marin Bosch of Mexico should of course be placed in this context. Our delegation is ready to support the proposals made by the Group of 21 in the 6 February declaration. At the same time, we have also seen the significance of reference made by Ambassador Morel in his personal remarks and in his statement to the risk of the illusion of a "leg-up". We will offer our full co-operation to this year's Chairman of the Ad hoc Committee on Chemical Weapons, Ambassador Hyltenius of Sweden, and we will do our best to make our modest contribution to collective action on the important and urgent problem of the conclusion of a universal convention on prohibition. We feel that in order to achieve these objectives we have to act with determination and without any prejudice or pre-conditions. In general we consider that, in the field of disarmament, the only approach is to act with perseverance and realism and to move forward gradually towards the achievement of agreements and measures without conditions or artificial linkages.

Mr. LEDOGAR (United States of America): Although I have not spoken before in this forum, and although I intend to make a more formal initial statement to the Conference in the very near future, I would like to take the floor now to make a couple of brief remarks.

First, I wish to inform members of the Conference on Disarmament that the United States delegation is pleased to have with us today United States

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