

(Mr. Azambuja, Brazil)

appear to have been designated jointly by the two major Powers as being ready for universal negotiations. In other equally vital areas, things proceed as if it were necessary to be heavily armed as a preliminary step to be able to have a word to say on subsequent disarmament negotiations.

The Final Declaration adopted in Paris has six paragraphs, which very clearly spell out the concerns and expectations of the 149 nations that endorsed it. The first one states unequivocally their commitment not to use chemical weapons. In this light, Brazil hopes sincerely that those States which have made reservations to the Geneva Protocol will seriously examine the possibility of withdrawing such reservations. This would be a positive step towards bringing the international regulations in force prior to the adoption of the new convention into line with the situation which will come into being after the goal of the complete and universal prohibition of the development, production, stockpiling and use of all chemical weapons is reached.

The second paragraph reaffirms the validity of the Geneva Protocol of 1925, which was indeed one of the main objectives of the convening of the Paris Conference. Let me also welcome another development directly related to that gathering, the important number of new accessions to the Protocol.

The third paragraph - for my delegation the real hub of the entire text - is the emphatic appeal to the Conference on Disarmament "to redouble its efforts, as a matter of urgency, to resolve expeditiously the remaining issues and to conclude the convention at the earliest date". My delegation, as well as the other members of the Group of 21, considered that this very clear language, adopted by all participating States, meant the same to all of us. As we have seen in the negotiations on the question of the mandate to be adopted for the re-established Ad hoc Committee on Chemical Weapons, we were wrong, and the mandate could not be brought entirely into line with the letter and the spirit of the Final Declaration of the Paris meeting.

The fourth paragraph gives the Geneva negotiations a very well-defined framework, as it emphasizes that the only answer to the vertical and horizontal dimensions of the spread of chemical weapons is the conclusion and entry into force of a universal and non-discriminatory convention.

The fifth paragraph, regarding the role of the United Nations, reiterates language already widely accepted and gives further impetus to the work of the Group of Experts established under resolution 43/74 A, now meeting in this very building.

The sixth and last paragraph takes up the subject with which I began my appreciation of the successful outcome of the Paris Conference. The consensus around chemical disarmament and the hopes that our work here at the Conference on Disarmament arouse around the world should not let us forget the priorities enshrined in the Final Document of the first special session of the United Nations General Assembly. In spite of the real progress made with the Washington Treaty, the so-called INF agreement, we are still a far cry from approaching in nuclear disarmament the levels that would quiet and comfort mankind's deep and well-founded anxieties.