

(Mr. Baati, Tunisia)

Conference and its prompt signing of the Convention on chemical weapons offer further signs of its faith in the effectiveness and solidity of the commitments negotiated in the transparent and multilateral forum of the Conference on Disarmament. This signature corroborates our commitment to work with others for a further reduction in chemical weapons and weapons which represent a source of danger and our desire to promote the establishment of lasting peace and security in the world. At a time when we welcome the latest initiatives by President Clinton followed by those of Presidents Yeltsin and Mitterrand on the extension of the moratorium on nuclear tests and the decision taken by consensus in this Conference to initiate the process aiming at the negotiation of a treaty relating to the complete prohibition of nuclear-weapon tests, we cannot conceal our disappointment at seeing Tunisia deprived of the possibility of contributing in a full and proper manner to this collective endeavour as a full member of the Conference on Disarmament. Finally, I should like to add that this matter will continue to be the subject of consultations between Tunisia and certain members of the Conference on Disarmament.

(The President)

I now invite the Conference to proceed to the adoption of the recommendation contained in paragraph 13 of the progress report on the thirty-sixth session of the Ad Hoc Group of Scientific Experts, as indicated in document CD/1211, which has been circulated. In accordance with that recommendation, the Ad Hoc Group will be convened from 7 to 18 February 1994 in Geneva, or at any other date that might be most appropriate to the needs and the work of the Conference on Disarmament. It is of course also understood that, depending on the activities of the Conference, it may become necessary for the Ad Hoc Group to meet more frequently than in the past. Accordingly, the proposed dates are subject to adjustment or change whenever the Conference deems necessary. We may also convene the Ad Hoc Group for additional sessions if necessary, and if there is no objection I shall take it that the Conference so decides.

It was so decided.