

(Mr. van Schaik, Netherlands)

Some delegations have suggested that we could make good use of the example of the confidence-building measures (CBMs) that were agreed upon in Stockholm in September 1986, in the framework of the European Disarmament Conference. We agree with those delegations in so far as we should be inspired by the constructive spirit which led to results at the Stockholm Conference. But we believe the parallel cannot be drawn any further because, as Ambassador Von Stülpnagel rightly said, the negotiations in Stockholm served a different purpose.

In Stockholm the objective was to build confidence. Here our more radical objective is the complete abolition of all chemical weapons. We cannot confine ourselves to a system that gives "some" confidence. What we need is a system of verification that gives full confidence.

Full confidence will also require full confidence in the organization we shall establish and in the rules of decision-making we shall draft. I refer in this context to the Netherlands Working Paper CD/445 of March 1984, on the size and structure of a chemical disarmament inspectorate. But there is far more to it. As Ambassador Cromartie said in his final statement as Chairman of the Ad Hoc Committee on 3 February, provisions under article IX, but also under article VIII, of the convention would be required to underpin confidence in the convention. Provisions on a strong organization and on strong rules of decision-making should provide the necessary confidence in the draft convention as a whole, to enable it to be concluded.

A lot of important work is still waiting for us. Differences must be bridged, resistance overcome. Let us assist the President of the Ad Hoc Committee in setting priorities by first focusing on the major issues. I call upon all delegations to contribute to a common effort to bring the convention on chemical weapons to an early conclusion.

Mr. President, a famous countryman of yours, the Cuban poet Jose Marti, said on building a nation a century ago what we today can say about building a chemical weapons convention. Like a nation, a chemical weapons convention "is not a complex of wheels (of fortune), nor a wild horse race, but a stride upward concerted by real men".

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Mr. BAKKEVIG (Norway): ●●●

A global, comprehensive and effective ban on chemical weapons is urgently needed. Norway has taken active part in the negotiations in the Conference on Disarmament on a convention on the prohibition of the development, production