

(Mr. Hou, China)

... The distinguished representative of Mexico, Ambassador Miguel Marín Bosch, in his capacity as the co-ordinator of the Group of 21, made a statement on behalf of the Group on the re-establishment of the Ad hoc Committee on Chemical Weapons in the plenary on 6 February. My delegation concurs with and supports the statement. It is our consistent position that the future convention on the complete prohibition of chemical weapons should expressly stipulate a ban on the use of such weapons. This also represents the universal demand of the international community. The Final Declaration of the Paris Conference and the relevant resolutions of the forty-fourth session of the General Assembly all emphasize this point. We therefore share the view that the mandate to be adopted for the Ad hoc Committee on Chemical Weapons should indeed be improved, and that it is appropriate to include a reference on the prohibition of use. We are ready to continue to carry out constructive consultations with you, Mr. President, and with other delegations, in a spirit of active co-operation, so as to bring about an early start to substantive work in the Ad hoc Committee on Chemical Weapons.