

(Mr. de Azambuja, Brazil)

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In contrast with the difficulties we are facing in the discussions on item 1 of the agenda, progress is evident on item 4. Under the very able guidance of Ambassador Ekéus of Sweden, the Committee on Chemical Weapons is truly addressing itself to very pertinent and important questions in this complex field. The conclusion of a convention on chemical weapons is thus now a tangible possibility, which we deeply believe the Conference should not forego.

Nevertheless, as we strive to reach a final agreement we must also pay careful attention to some points more directly related to economic and technological development. As we have stated in CD/CW/WP.176, the banning of the development, production and stockpiling of chemical weapons by means of an internationally binding instrument would represent a major achievement in the process of disarmament and, by the same token, a significant contribution to the strengthening of international peace and security. In the light of the important and manifold links between disarmament and security, on the one side, and economic development on the other, a convention on chemical weapons should necessarily include provisions related to the unfettered development of chemical industry for peaceful purposes, with due attention to the needs of the developing areas of the world.

The convention should do so basically in two different ways. Firstly, in a negative way, by ensuring that none of its provisions will be interpreted or implemented so as to hamper the development of chemical industry for peaceful purposes in any country whatsoever. Secondly, in a positive way, by including specific provisions intended to promote development goals.

Bearing that in mind, we have proposed -- as also indicated in the above-mentioned document -- that it is desirable that article XI of the draft convention on chemical weapons include a separate paragraph which would read as follows:

"Nothing in this Convention shall be interpreted as establishing any discrimination between States Parties as regards their duties, obligations and responsibilities under the Convention, as well as their right to the development of chemical technology and industry for peaceful purposes".

Accordingly, and allowing for the particular relevance of the matter -- which is to be considered as one that ranks among the basic principles governing the twin purposes of disarmament and development -- the seventh preambular paragraph of the convention should read as follows: