

(Mr. Hu, China)

Information on the types of these chemical munitions and toxic agents and their geographical distribution is contained in document CD/1127 submitted by my delegation. Please allow me to point out that, in the English text of this document, there are two technical errors, one towards the end of page 2 and the other towards the end of page 4. In this regard the secretariat has issued a corrigendum. The Chinese leadership and the Chinese delegation have on many occasions expounded our principled position and propositions on the issue of abandoned chemical weapons, and I am not going to repeat all of them today. However, in the interest of resolving the issue of abandoned chemical weapons in the negotiations as soon as possible, we find it necessary to emphasize the following. Firstly, the complete destruction of abandoned chemical weapons is of close relevance to the objective of the convention and constitutes an essential and important part of the convention. In this respect no gap or lacuna can be allowed. Secondly, the issue of abandoned chemical weapons is by no means a mere "historical problem", but rather an important one of relevance to both the present and the future. Nor is it an issue that concerns only a few victim States, but rather one that has a bearing on the basic rights and obligations of all States parties. It is, therefore, an important issue of relevance to the maintenance of international peace and security. Thirdly, the key to the resolution of the issue of abandoned chemical weapons lies in the attribution of responsibility for their destruction. The convention must lay down in fair and clear terms the principle that a State which has used and abandoned chemical weapons shall bear the responsibility for their destruction.

On the basis of the above-mentioned position of principle, the Chinese delegation has put forward and will continue to put forward concrete and constructive proposals. For example, bearing in mind the similarities as well as the dissimilarities in the circumstances in which chemical weapons were abandoned, we maintain that the following wording should be included in the convention: "Each State party undertakes to destroy all chemical weapons it has abandoned on the territory of another State, and the States concerned may on this basis seek proper solutions through consultations among themselves." The second part of this wording is flexible enough to accommodate all kinds of circumstances and the corresponding solutions.

Apart from the key issue of responsibility for destruction, we are of the opinion that it is also necessary to make some additions and modifications related to abandoned chemical weapons in articles III and IV and their annexes. Proceeding from these points, the Chinese delegation has outlined its position of principle, propositions and specific proposals on the issue of abandoned chemical weapons in document CD/1130. We hope that these propositions and proposals will be considered in all seriousness by the CD and the Ad Hoc Committee on CW and fully reflected in the "rolling text", and in this regard we are ready to continue our constructive cooperation with all other delegations.