

(Mr. Nazarkin, Union of Soviet Socialist Republics)

The Soviet delegation intends to put forward our detailed ideas regarding the current session of the Conference at one of our forthcoming meetings. Today we have asked for the floor in order to introduce two documents which we have submitted to the Conference on Disarmament, CD/789 and CD/790. They both deal with an issue that occupies an extremely important place in the work of the Conference, the prohibition and elimination of chemical weapons.

We consider finalizing the chemical weapons convention as an urgent task for the Conference on Disarmament. The Soviet Union is in favour of stepping up the negotiations to the maximum. At the same time, success in moving towards a convention also depends to a great extent on what is being done outside these negotiations, and above all on creating an atmosphere of trust and openness in the field of chemical weapons.

Today the Soviet delegation is introducing as an official document of the Conference on Disarmament a working paper entitled "Information on the presentation at the Shikhany military facility of standard chemical munitions and of technology for the destruction of chemical weapons at a mobile unit", which took place on 3 and 4 October last year. The document contains the information which was provided to those who participated in the visit to Shikhany. This document gives a fairly complete picture of our system of chemical weapons and contains information on all the toxic substances and standard chemical munitions that we have.

The other document (CD/790) is the text of a statement by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the USSR, published on 26 December last year in connection with the initiation of the production by the United States of a new generation of chemical weapons - binary weapons. I would like to draw your attention to the important fact that in this statement the Soviet Union, acting in a spirit of good will, was the first of the States which possess chemical weapons to declare the size of its chemical weapons stocks, which do not exceed 50,000 tons of CW agents.

We expect that the United States will also declare the size of its chemical weapons stocks in the near future.

In trying to justify the initiation of binary weapon production before world public opinion, United States representatives usually refer to the alleged chemical threat from the Soviet Union. In so doing, they have cited absolutely fantastic "data" on chemical weapons stocks in the USSR, which allegedly enjoys superiority over the United States in this field several times over. We believe that publishing data on the real size of our chemical weapons stocks has revealed how unfounded such "arguments" are.

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