

(Mr. Omar, Libyan Arab Jamahiriya)

my country welcomed the Soviet-United States statement issued in Moscow concerning the agreement by the Ministers for Foreign Affairs of the two countries on the need to eliminate chemical weapons throughout the world and their determination to work for the signature and application of a multilateral agreement prohibiting the production and use of chemical weapons and providing for the world-wide elimination of the stockpiles of such weapons. My country, having already expressed its hope that this agreement will be applied fully, and having reiterated its clear position in regard to these and other types of weapons of mass destruction, calls for the adoption of more far-reaching measures for the elimination of chemical, biological and nuclear weapons and the destruction of the stockpiles of these weapons in order to protect mankind from their dangers and preclude any possibility of their use. This statement was issued as an official document of this Conference (CD/970) on 20 February 1990.

Moreover, in paragraphs 23 and 24 of the Great Green Document on Human Rights, which was issued as an official document of the United Nations General Assembly under the symbol A/44/331 on 19 June 1989, the Libyan Arab Jamahiriya adopted the following principles regarding the arms trade, the cessation of arms production and atomic, biological and chemical weapons:

"23. The members of the society of the Jamahiriya believe that peace among nations can bring about well-being, prosperity and concord, and they call for the abolition of the arms trade and an end to the manufacture of arms, since it represents a squandering of the wealth of the masses, constitutes a burden on individuals, because of taxation, and presents mankind with the spectre of mass destruction.

"24. The members of the society of the Jamahiriya call for the abolition of atomic, biological and chemical weapons and means of mass destruction and for the destruction of existing stockpiles. They call for the release of mankind from atomic plants and the threat of nuclear waste."

My country is also following with you the sincere efforts aimed at the drafting and conclusion of a convention on the prohibition of the development, production and stockpiling of all chemical weapons and on their destruction.

I do not believe, and nobody believes, that there is any ambiguity in the Libyan position regarding nuclear weapons and other weapons of mass destruction, including chemical weapons. However, all of you are aware of the White House announcement on 7 March that "available evidence suggests that chemical weapons are being produced at the Rabta plant in Libya", and that this called for international efforts to shut down the facility. "We are very seriously concerned about this development", said White House Press Secretary Marlin Fitzwater in reference to the plant. He said the Rabta facility was dangerous and becoming more so. There was a necessity for heightened international vigilance of Libyan procurement activities and for vigorous efforts to stop the Rabta operation, he declared. He also said that the Administration had expressed its serious concern to various Governments, and that the international community should step up its efforts to deny Libya the ability to continue operating the plant. "This is a subject we have under