

(Mr. Tóth, Hungary)

... The new negotiating mandate agreed on last summer and confirmed in January puts additional responsibility on delegations taking part in the work of the Ad Hoc Committee on Chemical Weapons of the Conference on Disarmament. The ambitious but by no means unrealistic target to conclude the chemical weapons convention by 1992 requires further serious efforts on the part of the negotiators and an enhanced spirit of compromise. National positions need to be reviewed, however difficult that may be, if we are sincere about our intentions of achieving a chemical weapons ban.

The very welcome concluding phase of the multilateral negotiations on the comprehensive and global prohibition of chemical weapons appears to be no less difficult than the previous negotiating stages. Resolving a number of crucial problems that have been deferred over the years due to their contentious nature demands prompt decisions based on compromise. It is clear for us that such bold steps are not easy to take, but they are simply inevitable if we are to succeed. The mandate of the Ad Hoc Committee on Chemical Weapons adopted by consensus leaves no room whatsoever for delaying concerted action on issues as yet unresolved.

We may need further initiatives aimed at speeding up the course of negotiations. All of us have to be aware of the fact that we don't have much time. This is why the approach of the Chairman of the Ad Hoc Committee on Chemical Weapons to the outstanding issues enjoys our full agreement and support.

As Hungary has already outlined several times, our basic goal is to have an effective convention that lives up to the high requirements set by the complexity of the problems. As a humble contribution to this aim, allow me to draw your attention to document CD/1135. In this document Hungary is presenting its third annual declaration on the activities of its chemical industry as required by the draft provisions of the chemical weapons convention. The presentation is fully in line with Hungary's unilateral commitment put forward in 1989 at the United Nations General Assembly, declaring that Hungary was ready to comply with all the provisions of the convention under negotiation and to act in full conformity with it at this stage already. We firmly believe in the confidence-building effects of such