

(Mr. Lange, New Zealand)

New Zealand is grateful to the Conference on Disarmament for the opportunity to contribute to its work. We appreciate that the negotiation of disarmament agreements is a difficult, arduous process. We have followed with particular interest the work on a Chemical Weapons agreement and hope that the parties involved in the negotiations will keep up the momentum developed last year on this issue. The international community needs a comprehensive and verifiable ban on these weapons as soon as possible. The events in the Middle East show the urgency with which the negotiations on a draft convention must be brought to a successful conclusion. The New Zealand delegation will participate in these negotiations and on other items of the Conference's agenda to the extent our resources allow. I look forward to the time when New Zealand will be able to be more directly involved in this most important Conference.

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(Mr. Alessi, Italy)

Continuation of the negotiation of a treaty to ban all use of chemical weapons is still the principal item on our work programme.

The Ad Hoc Committee established by the Conference has done intensive work, as is shown by its voluminous report annexed to the Report of the Conference. Many points have been examined in greater detail and we now have an organized outline of the topics which might be dealt with in the future convention. We wish, at this point, to express our deep gratitude to Ambassador Ekéus of Sweden, who served as Chairman of the Ad Hoc Committee with dedication and competence, not only during the 1984 session, but also during the three-week resumption of negotiations, from 14 January to 1 February this year.

Even though the results achieved are still less than might have been hoped for, we must recognize that the work of the 1984 session enabled us carefully to identify the many problems to be dealt with and this should facilitate our future work.

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