

(Mr. Chirila, Romania)

In the light of the dynamic progress in international life, the Geneva Conference, the sole framework for comprehensive negotiations for disarmament, must make a more significant contribution, both through negotiation of agreements and measures and through the encouragement of all the discussions and negotiations at all levels and in all areas of disarmament. One of the areas in which the Conference on Disarmament is called upon and in a position to make an immediate and decisive contribution is the negotiation of a convention on the prohibition of the use, production and stockpiling of chemical weapons and on their destruction. Our position concerning chemical disarmament, which is fully marked by openness, a positive approach and determination, is in fact based on two equally important elements: first, my country's position of principle in favour of the banning and elimination of all weapons of mass destruction as soon as possible; second, the fact that Romania possesses no chemical weapons.

We would like to stress here, with all the vigour and determination deriving from the mandate entrusted to our delegation, that Romania has no intention of producing or acquiring chemical weapons in the future. We have firm and clear instructions to act with determination to ensure that the ongoing negotiations are intensified and lead as soon as possible to the conclusion of a universal convention to ban chemical weapons, on the basis of the "rolling text" of the draft. To that end we intend to participate actively in and contribute to the best of our ability to the finalization of the draft articles that are still under discussion. We are of course aware of the problems and difficulties, notable among them that of monitoring, guaranteeing the full implementation of the future regulations. We are in favour of a system of strict and effective monitoring, including facilities for manufacturing chemicals which could present a risk of any kind for the convention. At the same time, we share the practically universal concern to ensure that the future convention does not affect the development of the chemical industry or legitimate international co-operation for peaceful purposes. At the same time we welcome and are ready to support any initiative, gesture or act that will bring us closer as soon as possible to the objective that is imperative by virtue of the weight of the evidence, considerations of effectiveness and from all points of view, namely, the conclusion of a convention universally banning and totally eliminating chemical weapons for ever. In this context, we have learned of the official confirmation that the Soviet Union and the United States plan at the Soviet-American summit next June to conclude a bilateral agreement on the destruction of a part of their CW stockpiles until equal lower levels are reached. We hope that, far from shifting the centre of interest, the Soviet-American bilateral agreement, like any other action in the same field, will encourage and contribute to our negotiations here in Geneva in the multilateral context.

Ambassador Pierre Morel of France, who so assiduously and skilfully guided the work of the Ad hoc Committee on Chemical Weapons during the preceding session, has just given us an overall picture of the efforts made and the results obtained. However, we cannot hide a certain feeling that, particularly where decisive - political - questions are concerned, the results could have been more significant, especially in view of the more favourable general conditions in recent times. The declaration introduced on behalf