

(Mr. Ahmad, Pakistan)

watertight convention do not come as a surprise to us. Comprehensive, unambiguous and stringent procedures would greatly help in promoting international confidence in any agreement. Provisions aimed at ensuring compliance with the convention should, therefore, not be seen as directed against this or that State or group of States, but rather at enhancing the credibility of the convention. The relationship between sovereign rights of States and international obligations freely entered into has been and will remain a sensitive issue as well as an interesting debating point. However, sovereignty voluntarily conceded for the greater good of all is altruism at its best.

The Conference on Disarmament must capitalize on the existing international consensus on the urgent need for a comprehensive ban on chemical weapons. We must not expend our energies and time in the pursuit of a less than comprehensive ban or on half-way measures. Also, inordinate delay or too laboured a rate of progress towards a comprehensive ban can lead to an erosion of world-wide interest in the subject. Equally, the danger that a momentum can also develop for the acquisition of these weapons of mass destruction which can be easily produced, disguised and employed can only be ignored at our peril. Such a disastrous development would irreparably destroy the international disarmament process itself.

I cannot allow this opportunity to pass without placing on record my delegation's gratitude to Ambassador Turbanski, the distinguished representative of Poland, for the very competent manner in which he fulfilled his responsibilities as Chairman of the Ad Hoc Committee on Chemical Weapons during our 1985 session. Our thanks also go to Mr. Petar Poptchev, Mrs. Elisabet Bonnier and Mr. Frank Elbe who chaired the three Working Groups established under the Ad Hoc Committee. We are also deeply appreciative of the efforts made by Mr. Wisnoemoerti in his consultations on the question of herbicides.

The Conference has taken a wise decision in appointing someone as eminently qualified as Ambassador Cromartie to the chairmanship of the Ad Hoc Committee on Chemical Weapons for the 1986 session. My delegation looks forward to working under his guidance and pledges to him its fullest co-operation.