

(Mr. Marín Bosch, Mexico)

... Once again a large part of the CD's time and efforts will be spent on the negotiation of a convention on the total prohibition of chemical weapons. Since last year important changes have been made in the mandate of the Ad Hoc Committee on Chemical Weapons: in February the qualification that prevented it from proceeding to the finalization of a draft convention was dropped, and in June, besides the call to intensify negotiations "with a view to striving to achieve a final agreement on the convention by 1992", the prohibition of use was included in the title of the future convention. Those changes have begun to bear fruit. This is reflected in the report that we submitted to the United Nations General Assembly, which in its resolution 46/35 C urges the CD, as a matter of the highest priority, to resolve outstanding issues so as to achieve a final agreement during the present session.

The work done by the Ad Hoc Committee on Chemical Weapons during the intersessional period is further proof of the commitment we all have to strive to achieve an agreement during 1992. However, bearing in mind the many implications of the series of outstanding issues, it is advisable to avoid setting deadlines which later we may not be able to keep. The example of the Uruguay Round of negotiations in GATT could serve as a precedent. That does not imply that we should reduce the pace of the Committee's work, but rather

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that time should be given to assess carefully the effects of each and every one of the provisions which will be included in the future convention, so that it can be applied on a truly universal scale.