

(Mr. Tellalov, Bulgaria)

The Bulgarian delegation would like to express its satisfaction that the Conference has already taken a decision to continue the negotiations on the prohibition of chemical weapons. We welcome the desire of the Chairman of the Ad Hoc Committee, Ambassador Turbanski, to go ahead with business-like negotiations and assure him of our readiness to assist in the implementation of this responsible goal. In the opinion of my delegation, it might be expedient to hold an additional session of the Ad Hoc Committee on Chemical Weapons in accordance with the recommendation contained in paragraph 12 of last year's Report. I avail myself of this opportunity to express my gratitude to Ambassador Ekéus for his personal contribution as Chairman of the Ad Hoc Committee during last year's session.

(Mr. Imai, Japan)

As we have stated before on many occasions, we believe that this Conference should deploy its best efforts for the early realization of a global and comprehensive prohibition of chemical weapons. Fortunately, the discussions have been very active in recent years, and we appreciate the fact that the major points of a future convention prohibiting chemical weapons have become clear and for this we have to thank the untiring efforts of the former chairman of the Ad Hoc Committee on Chemical Weapons, Ambassador Ekéus.

At the same time we note that with the increasing intensity of the discussions and further identification of related problems, we have been getting increasingly involved in details which are, of course, necessary and important but at the same time may have the effect of confusing the priorities. It may, therefore, be worthwhile to reconfirm the basic objectives of the convention; that is, the prohibition of the development, production, acquisition, stockpiling, retaining, and transfer as well as use of chemical weapons and for the destruction of existing chemical weapons and their production facilities. In discussing this matter, we should always bear in mind that the chemical weapons convention as outlined above should work to enhance national security of all States while at the same time it should not pose any impediments to the development of normal activities of the world's peaceful chemical industries.

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