

Through the concerted effort of many delegations, it was possible to add new elements to the positive results obtained back in the summer. We have managed to make headway on the road to the wording of a future Convention. What is more, it is obvious now in what direction we should be heading if we are to achieve further progress in drafting the convention.

I understand all delegations consider the integrated approach as the basis on which to determine key precursors of toxic chemicals, key components of chemical-weapon systems and chemicals that are produced in large commercial quantities and can be used for CW purposes. The approach allows the simultaneous identification of criteria governing the selection of chemicals and the listing of relevant substances. It will be important, however, to discuss these two elements in a balanced way.

In the past few weeks, the chances of arriving at a definition of production facilities have increased. Most delegations recognize that, due to the great variety of chemicals of relevance to chemical weapons, a discriminative approach to the different stages of production is needed. The last manufacturing stage plays a particularly important role. If we continue working along these lines, I see no reason why progress should not be possible in respect to production facilities.

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(Mr. Rose, German Democratic Republic)

As far as measures of compliance are concerned, my delegation expects the Conference to carry on the discussion of problems. With regard to the crucial on-site inspection issue, we are witnessing an honest desire on the part of numerous delegations to find a practicable and generally acceptable solution. The present situation, Mr. President, is undoubtedly propitious for expeditious work on a CW ban. I am convinced that the proposals which the Soviet Union made on 15 January will have a positive impact on what we are doing here. The statement of Mikhail Gorbachev, General Secretary of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of the Soviet Union, exemplifies how serious his country is about translating the joint declaration issued at the Geneva summit into concrete action.