

(Mr. Fan, China)

comprehensively prohibit and completely destroy this type of weapon, so that mankind can be rid of this scourge for ever. The Chinese delegation will continue to exert its efforts in this regard.

The present international situation has turned from confrontation to dialogue. This is very favourable to the negotiations on the CW convention. The Paris Conference on the prohibition of CW last month was held at a high political level. The Final Declaration adopted unanimously by 150 States reflects the common will of the international community. The participating States unanimously call upon the CD to redouble its efforts and to conclude a convention banning chemical weapons at the earliest date. The Conference on Disarmament should respond with concrete actions. Our country therefore shares the view of the Group of 21 that the CD should, in the light of the new developments, entrust the Ad hoc Committee on Chemical Weapons with a more appropriate mandate. Our delegation is of the view that the inclusion of the prohibition of use in the mandate is in order. In the first half of the 1980s, the CD repeatedly considered this issue. The views of various parties have gradually converged. It is generally believed that the future convention should include elements on the prohibition of use. In fact, article 1 of the present draft already contains this element. For this reason, its reflection in the mandate should not pose any problems. As to the proposal to delete the phrase "except for its final drafting" in the original mandate, the Chinese delegation has no difficulty with it. Furthermore, in order to take due account of the outcome of the Paris Conference, the adoption of the relevant phrase from the Final Declaration, "at the earliest date", in place of the words "as soon as possible" used in the original mandate of the Ad hoc Committee, is also a possibility worth considering.

The Chinese delegation is in favour of modifying the mandate of the Ad hoc Committee, but we are also willing to adopt a flexible attitude and consider in earnest the views of other delegations. At the same time, we hope that the mandate will not take up too much time. We should start the substantive negotiations as soon as possible and, through concrete actions, strive for the conclusion of the convention on CW at the earliest date.

Mr. KOSTOV (Bulgaria):

... As has been stated on many occasions, the Group of Socialist Countries is in favour of speeding up the efforts of the Conference on all items on the agenda. We attach special importance to the item on a chemical weapons convention, as was stressed by our country's representative at the Paris Conference. Of course we applaud the results of the Paris Conference, which we think was a clear success for the whole international community. We