

CONFERENCE ON DISARMAMENT

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Ad Hoc Committee on Chemical Weapons

Statement made by the representative of Ethiopia at the
Ad Hoc Committee on Chemical Weapons on 26 August 1992

I would like to express the appreciation of my delegation for your commendable efforts and the skilful leadership you have demonstrated during these difficult negotiations on the draft Chemical Weapons Convention, the final text of which represents a delicate balance of the various interest groups. I sincerely hope this final version of the Convention will command a broad acceptance by delegations.

As regards the stand of my delegation, I am happy to communicate to you, Mr. Chairman, the decision of my authorities to go along with your final text of the Convention as contained in the document CD/CW/WP.400/Rev.2 which you could forward to the Conference on Disarmament and eventually to the United Nations General Assembly.

However, my delegation would like to put on record its serious regret that the States parties of the African region have been excluded at the last moment from the list of States to assume the rotating seat in the Executive Council as stipulated in article VIII, paragraph 23 (f). I hope that this imbalance will be rectified in the future if the occasion could arise.

Ethiopia strongly condemns chemical weapons, not only because it has been a victim of such weapons in the past, but also it is fully committed to defend the cause of peace and security in the world at large.

For understandable reasons, the development of developing countries, is a primary concern of my country. That is why my delegation had joined the Group of 14 countries which negotiated on the basis of documents CD/CW/WP.417 and CD/CW/WP.418. While my delegation does not insist on this stand, it is my hope that the concerns of each delegation will receive the understanding and sympathy of all delegations.

Finally, I request that this statement be retained as a working document of this Ad Hoc Committee.
