

(Mr. Benhima, Morocco)

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Our optimism regarding the ability of this Conference to meet the expectations of the international community by negotiating international disarmament agreements is also prompted by the recent stepping up of the work of the Ad Hoc Committee on Chemical Weapons, under the presidency of Ambassador Ekéus of Sweden.

Chemical weapons have always prompted universal horror, yet their manufacture and stockpiling, and new research for the production of still more dangerous nerve gases, continue. We are aware that current negotiations on an international convention banning chemical weapons involve complex problems, delicate political questions, as well as economic and trade interests. This new interest in this type of weapon is of profound concern to us. We, nevertheless venture to hope that the impetus given to negotiations in the Ad hoc Committee on prohibition of the development, manufacture, transfer, stockpiling and use of chemical weapons will continue until the final adoption of the treaty in question. Such a treaty would undoubtedly constitute a landmark in the continual efforts of this Conference to discharge its duties.

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(Mr. Bayart, Mongolia)

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Now I would like to say a few words on the question of a chemical weapon ban. During the first part of the Conference's session, substantial progress was made in agreeing convention provisions on the declaration of stocks of

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