

(Mr. Dolgu, Romania)

As far as the prohibition of chemical weapons is concerned, like many other delegations we have also welcomed the new positions expressed by the Soviet delegation in the statements of 24 November 1986, 17 February 1987 and 5 March 1987, intended to contribute to finding solutions to certain crucial problems: the declaration of chemical weapons stocks, and their verification, the non-production of chemical weapons by civilian industry, and international on-site inspection including challenge inspection. We also welcome the new measures recently announced by the Soviet Union, particularly the cessation of the production of chemical weapons and the beginning of the construction of a facility for the destruction of stocks. These are important steps which should help confidence-building and facilitate the conclusion of the convention.

We consider that, on the basis of results achieved in the intersessional period, the new proposals which I have mentioned and the willingness of all delegations, remarkable results have been achieved, particularly in the first part of the session. Thus thanks to the personal qualities and the dedication of the Chairman of the Ad Hoc Committee, His Excellency Ambassador Ekéus of Sweden, and the Group Co-ordinators, Mr. Nieuwenhys, Mr. Macedo and Dr. Krutzsch, and through the contributions of delegations, sizeable progress has been achieved in the drafting of article IV and its annex regarding chemical weapon stocks, as well as in the clarification of certain elements of article VI and its annexes on non-production of chemical weapons in civilian industry, and article VIII on the Consultative Committee and its subsidiary bodies.

It will be most important to get the green light from our capitals at the earliest possible time for mutual acceptable solutions to problems which have not yet been settled. Equally important is the duty to refrain from any action which at this stage could complicate or slow down the pace of the negotiations and the reaching of agreement on essential substantive elements regarding the draft convention on the prohibition of chemical weapons.

It would not be reasonable to ask States to give up their security interests. But it is legitimate to demand that certain perceptions of these interests and of how to guarantee them should be given up. If we do not agree as early as possible on the need to take a new approach to security problems, we may arrive at other agreements, undoubtedly useful for the international climate, but we shall not be able to avert the deadly danger weighing upon mankind.