

(Mr. Batsanov, USSR)

participating in the negotiations is no longer 40 but 64. This is a very positive development that paves the way to ensuring the universality of the future convention, which in turn is important both from a global point of view and from the standpoint of strengthening security and stability in various regions. In this connection the Soviet delegation attaches great significance to the provision of the Final Declaration of the Paris Conference which states that any State wishing to contribute to the negotiations on chemical weapons should be able to do so. Let us be mindful of the agreement reached by all of us in Paris.

CD/PV.511

10

(Mr. Rodrigo, Sri Lanka)

... The impact of these developments has certainly been appreciated in the CD, as many of the statements in plenary have indicated. Nevertheless, in most areas of work in the Conference, despite its accepted position as the single multilateral negotiating body on disarmament, a corresponding will to negotiate has not been built up. In Sri Lanka's last statement, comment was made on the lack of tangible progress in respect of negotiating a comprehensive nuclear test ban, and on initiatives consequently being taken outside the Conference that might help to spur the CD's own efforts. Similarly we expressed the hope that following the Paris Conference of January this year, which underlined in universal political terms the urgency of the CD's tasks in respect of chemical weapons, the requisite political determination would be manifested to expedite a comprehensive and effective ban on these weapons. We have been kept briefed about the proposed Canberra conference. While we acknowledge the important need to "prepare" the chemical industry for the effective implementation of the convention being negotiated here in Geneva, the Canberra conference should not give credence to any possible partial or interim measures which could detract from the Geneva negotiations or lead to industry restraints on the transfer of technology.