

(Mr. Qian Jiadong, China)

efforts. At the initiative of the Canadian delegation, the United Nations General Assembly last year adopted by consensus a resolution on the question of verification. Although this resolution only deals with the question of verification in general, we hope it will bear a positive impact on our negotiations. Under the chairmanship of Ambassador Cromartie, the Ad Hoc Committee on Chemical Weapons has started its work. We wish it renewed success.

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(Mr. Alfarargy, Egypt)

The speakers who preceded me agreed that the opportunity we now have is more favourable than ever before for achieving real progress in formulating a treaty banning chemical weapons. This comes as an aftermath of the affirmation by President Reagan and Mr. Gorbachev, in their Geneva Summit, of their determination to intensify their efforts to reach such an agreement. The Ad Hoc Committee on Chemical Weapons, during its resumed session last month, did show a new spirit in the negotiations. If the short time allotted to the resumed session prevented the Committee from considering all the existing problems and finding appropriate solutions, we still hope the spirit shown will continue to prevail so as to support the Committee in its work during its ordinary session. We are confident that Ambassador Cromartie of the United Kingdom, will continue the valuable efforts previously deployed by Ambassador Turbanski of Poland during his tenure as Chairman of the Ad Hoc Committee during the last session.

In this regard, it is of importance to me to indicate that while we share the concern at the increasing trend to possess and use chemical weapons, and while we support every effort to control such a trend, we still deem it necessary that this should not be considered as an alternative to or at the expense of our basic objective, which remains a convention for the comprehensive ban of chemical weapons.