

Mr. BELL-GAM (Nigeria):

... Mr. President, the Nigerian delegation is aware of the commendable role most non-member States to the CD have played, especially in the Ad Hoc Committee on Chemical Weapons. This year we have already received over 36 such applications, including that of South Africa.

... We are currently negotiating a multilateral Convention on the complete and effective prohibition of the development, production and stockpiling of

CD/PV.610

3

(Mr. Bell-Gam, Nigeria)

chemical weapons and on their destruction. There is every reason to believe that South Africa possesses chemical weapons. There must be an assurance that as an Observer, they will not only contribute constructively towards elaborating the Convention but also recognize the paramount need for universality. For that reason, my delegation will not block consensus this time around, as all potential violators should be brought into the negotiating process. Nigeria reserves the right to block future consensus on this matter. This is more so until South Africa becomes a free, democratic and non-racial society and conducts herself in accordance with the principles and purposes of the Charter of the United Nations.