

(Mr. Ahmad, Pakistan)

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The Ad hoc Committee on Chemical Weapons registered significant progress during this session under the energetic chairmanship of Ambassador Ekéus of Sweden. This is reflected in the additions that have been made to the "rolling text" on such questions as verification of declarations on chemical weapons and of their destruction, modalities for the revision of lists under article VI, and the technical secretariat. However, the momentum achieved in the spring part of the session was not maintained during the summer. The issues which remain outstanding, among them the questions of the order of destruction, commercial super-toxic chemicals, challenge inspection and organizational matters, are complex and their resolution will not be easy. Besides these politically difficult problems, it will also be necessary to agree on the details of certain outstanding technical matters. It is therefore important that negotiations should be intensified and the opportunity for inter-sessional work fully availed of.

Consultations carried out by the Chairman of the Ad hoc Committee on the issue of challenge inspection have led to some narrowing of differences, especially as regards the initiation of this process. However, the crucial question -- how to resolve a situation in which the challenging State and the challenged State are unable to agree how the inspection is to be conducted -- remains. My delegation cannot think of any solution to this problem, except that the matter be entrusted to the Executive Council. As has been rightly pointed out, time is of the essence in challenge inspection, and if doubts about compliance remain unresolved, confidence in the convention would be seriously undermined and its viability put at stake.

My delegation has taken a special interest in articles X and XI of the draft convention dealing, respectively, with assistance and with economic and technological development. We are looking forward to listening to the views of other delegations at the consultations on these two issues which are due to be held before the end of the current session, and hope that further consideration will be given to these two articles during the inter-sessional period. Our proposal on article X is before the Conference in document CD/752. We also support the Brazilian proposal on article XI contained in document CD/CW/WP.176.