

(Mr. Han, Democratic People's Republic of Korea)

Our Government hopes for the expeditious conclusion of a treaty on the complete prohibition of chemical weapons covering all countries, through the Conference on Disarmament. Although there exist technical difficulties concerning the issues of development of peaceful chemical industry and co-operation, as well as ways and means of ensuring inspection and verification, they can be settled within one or two years unless there is a political intention of opposing or delaying the abolition of chemical weapons. Our delegation will continue to play its role for the fulfilment of the goal of the Conference in the future.

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Mr. SHARMA (India):

... As this year's session draws to a close, it is natural to take stock of developments and relate them to the anticipation that we voiced in February when our Minister of State for External Affairs addressed the Conference. 1989 has been a significant year in the field of disarmament. The Paris Conference on the prohibition of chemical weapons recorded the unequivocal commitment of 149 States to rid the world entirely of chemical weapons and called upon the Conference on Disarmament to redouble its efforts to conclude the negotiations on a CW convention at the earliest date. In Vienna, an accord of historic significance on security and co-operation in Europe was signed, resulting in negotiations in earnest on the reduction of conventional forces in Europe between NATO and Warsaw Pact member States. The initial proposals tabled by the two sides reveal a high degree of convergence of views. Later in the year, we saw the resumption of negotiations between the United States and the Soviet Union on nuclear and space issues, as well as on issues relating to the chemical weapons negotiations. These developments are a reflection of the improvement in the current international climate for making meaningful progress, described variously as "the end of the cold war" or "a new détente". What is relevant is that there is resumption of engaged dialogue. Conflicts in different parts of the world have been arrested and negotiations are under way for their resolution. The United Nations has played an important role in this process, thereby demonstrating its unique position and singular responsibility in a multipolar world. Against this positive background, however, the assessment of our work in the Conference on Disarmament during the year is sombre.