

(Mr. Skinner, Canada)

I would first like to say that it is of particular pleasure to present to the Conference on Disarmament, through you, the report of the Ad Hoc Working Group on Chemical Weapons contained in document CD/429. You have this before you, I believe, in English only. I understand from the Secretariat that it will be distributed in the other languages of the Conference this afternoon. Canada and Poland have for some time alternated in sponsoring in New York at the General Assembly what has become known as the "traditional" consensus resolution on chemical weapons, and indeed a Polish representative, your predecessor Ambassador Sujka, has acted as Chairman of the Chemical Weapons Working Group. Indeed my statement today will be our last act as Chairman of this Group. In presenting document CD/429 for adoption by the Conference on Disarmament, I wish to draw particular attention to the fact that the recommendations contained in the report were adopted by the Ad Hoc Working Group on Chemical Weapons by consensus. The recommendations, I need not add, speak for themselves.

The Chairman of the Ad Hoc Working Group on Chemical Weapons undertook to present a brief oral report on substantive results of the activities of the four contact groups, as follows:

There are two points; the first refers to what has become known as the "Consensus document", contained in document CD/416 and its annexes.

With regard to the elimination of existing stocks of chemical weapons, as a result of intense discussions on how such elimination would be reported to the consultative committee, there is an emerging general understanding that a period of about six months would be appropriate for submission of reports on progress in the implementation of plans for the elimination of stocks of chemical weapons.

These matters are technical, but I believe very important for our future work.

Secondly, as regards the verification of the monitoring of compliance with the future non-production of chemical weapons, again there is an emerging clarity that the meaning of the words "agreed level" and "quota" were, for the purposes of the discussion, similar.

There are also other areas of clarification. There is a detailed examination and clarification of the meaning of the word "quota". Again, there is clarification and further understanding of the meaning of "capacity" of a small-scale production facility.

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