

(Mr. Wayarabi, Indonesia)

needed. It could also be argued, however, that the improvement in the international political climate which presents us with a positive momentum should be seen as an opportunity to speed up the conclusion of the régime. A great deal of effort has been directed towards the conclusion of a convention to totally ban chemical weapons. The technical as well as the conceptual details of establishing such a convention have been thoroughly examined during these last few years, and we believe that the establishment of the régime is within our reach. The efforts and dedication of the Chairman of the Ad hoc Committee, Ambassador Pierre Morel, as well as the five Chairmen of the Working Groups, in guiding the work of the Committee deserve our special appreciation. In this regard, my delegation particularly appreciates the initiative to invite experts to give their comments and suggestions to the Committee. This constitutes a useful practice which could enrich our discussions in drafting the convention.

The issue of verification of the convention is of utmost importance for the Committee. We believe that the establishment of a comprehensive and applicable verification régime embodied in the future convention will be the litmus test of the sincerity of States' intentions to remove the chemical weapons they possess. Another element which is no less important is the order of destruction of chemical weapons, as well as their production facilities. A verifiable order of destruction which assures the total elimination and banning of these weapons will be a source of credibility for the future convention. This particular part of the draft convention is in need of a practical and problem-solving approach which takes into account the wish of those who really want to see these horrific weapons banned soon once and for all.

At the last spring session of the Conference, my delegation mentioned that we could only judge the success of the Conference in establishing the régime if, at the end of this summer session, we could see the result of our exercise in treaty language incorporated in the "rolling text". It should be remembered that the international gathering of 149 States in Paris in January of this year resulted in an obligatory mandate to redouble our efforts to conclude the régime at an early date. Technical information suggests that protection against a chemical-weapon attack is nearly impossible in a tropical climate like ours. Recovery from such a catastrophe is also said to be an extremely difficult task. These are only two of the many reasons why Indonesia, as a densely populated tropical country, has as one of its principal disarmament goals a total ban on chemical weapons.

My delegation has an open mind and constructively considers any idea or initiative which would contribute to the goal of totally banning chemical weapons. Any initiative which will enhance endeavours to finalize a global, comprehensive and verifiable chemical weapons convention negotiated at the Conference on Disarmament should be supported. Our readiness to positively consider such an initiative also applies to efforts outside the framework of the CD, provided that they would speed up the conclusion of the chemical weapons convention being negotiated in the CD.