

(Mr. Lyons, Ireland)

and his team are to be congratulated on the skill and persistence which led to this result. It is one which my authorities can certainly accept, and I can reiterate the intention of Ireland, already expressed by my Government, to be an original signatory to the convention. We hope that those States which at present have reservations about the text will be able to focus on its merits rather than on what they perceive as its shortcomings and to accept it in a spirit of compromise.

Mr. VALENTINO (Malta):

... On 26 May of this year my delegation in its statement to the Conference on Disarmament appealed to all delegations, particularly those deeply involved in the negotiations on the draft chemical weapons convention, to make serious efforts to give top priority during negotiations to resolving the pending issues on the draft chemical weapons convention. Today my delegation, together with the majority of the members and non-members of the Conference on Disarmament, is in a position to state that such efforts have materialized, and we are satisfied to note that this Conference has produced a final text of the convention on chemical weapons. Malta joins other delegations which have expressed their appreciation for the intensive work carried out by the Ad Hoc Committee on Chemical Weapons, especially its Chairman, Ambassador Adolf von Wagner of Germany, and his delegation.

Malta is not a member of this Conference, but has followed with interest the developments on the negotiations leading to the convention. The chemical weapons convention is an international security treaty which merits universal backing. We trust that the broad support already expressed by the majority of States represented here may in the future be joined by others which may, at present, still have some reservations.

During the final meeting of the Ad Hoc Committee on Chemical Weapons a statement was delivered by the distinguished Ambassador of France which is reflected in the Committee's report. Malta wishes to associate itself with that statement, which it finds balanced and factual.

As stated by this delegation in May this year, Malta will be among the original signatories to the chemical weapons convention. It will do this in the interest of our national, regional and international security interests, and thus sincerely hope that all countries, particularly those in the Mediterranean region, become States parties to the convention.

Malta feels that, during the period between now and the submission of the chemical weapons convention to the United Nations General Assembly, important discussions should be held between countries represented here and those which are not, so that this convention is given the widest possible promotion. We have the responsibility in promoting this convention to other States in the