

(Mr. Ahmad, Pakistan)

We are satisfied that 1982 was a productive year at least for the elaboration of a convention on chemical weapons. The contact groups have painstakingly worked out substantive details of the draft elements of a convention. Various views and perhaps all possible alternative approaches, ideas and proposals have been taken into account. The work, however, has now reached a plateau, and unless the major Powers display a degree of foresight and political will at this point, we may run the risk of sliding back to irreconcilable positions. On the question of verification, there was evidence late last year of a growing realization that a measure of least intrusive yet on site inspection is inescapable for ensuring mutual compliance with a future convention. National verification measures alone are an insufficient and unacceptable guarantee. We need to build upon this in the Working Group this year.