

(Ms. Sinegiorgis, Ethiopia)

... It is gratifying to note that much progress has been made in the elaboration of the convention on chemical weapons during the past year. In this regard, I hasten to add that the Paris Conference has been a resounding success. We note with satisfaction that the Conference not only made the reaffirmation of the 1925 Geneva Protocol possible, but also called upon the Conference on Disarmament "to redouble its efforts, as a matter of urgency, to resolve expeditiously the remaining issues and to conclude the convention at the earliest date".

In this connection, I would like to seize this opportunity to convey the profound appreciation of my Government to the Government of France for convening the Conference and for its generous hospitality. I would also like to proffer our sincere thanks to His Excellency Mr. Roland Dumas, Minister for Foreign Affairs, for having taken his precious time to officially introduce to us the Final Declaration of the Conference. Let me also pay a particular tribute to the distinguished representative of France, Ambassador Pierre Morel, for his indefatigable efforts in the preparations for the Conference.

It is evident from the Final Declaration of the Paris Conference that there is an expressed general will to ban chemical weapons once and for all. Moreover, the Final Declaration states, inter alia: "The participating States stress the necessity of concluding, at an early date, a convention on the prohibition of the development, production, stockpiling and use of all chemical weapons, and on their destruction".

Ethiopia was among the first States to accede to the 1925 Geneva Protocol. It is one of the paradoxes of history that Ethiopia was also one of the first countries to fall victim to the use of chemical weapons. Ethiopia therefore considers these weapons and their complete destruction a matter of the utmost priority. Furthermore, it is my duty to inform this Conference that my country does not produce or stockpile chemical weapons.

At this juncture, we would like to note with satisfaction the considerable progress made during the inter-sessional work of the Ad hoc Committee on Chemical Weapons. We welcome the deletion of appendix III on security stocks. My delegation also commends the work done in the areas of confidentiality, assistance and protection, as well as the conduct of challenge inspections. In this regard, I would like on behalf of my delegation to express my sincere gratitude to the Chairman of the Ad hoc Committee, His Excellency Ambassador Sujka of Poland, for his timeless efforts in successfully guiding the deliberations of the Ad hoc Committee. Our appreciation also goes to the chairmen of the three working groups, namely Mr. Andrej Cima of Czechoslovakia, Mr. Pablo Macedo of Mexico and Mr. Sadaaki Numata of Japan.