

(Mr. Törnudd, Finland)

Some progress has been made last year with regard to the negotiation of a comprehensive chemical weapons treaty. While we welcome this development, it is to be emphasized that the conclusion of a chemical weapons treaty is a most urgent task of the whole international community. This urgency was underlined by the statement of the United Nations Security Council that chemical weapons had been used in the Iran-Iraq conflict.

Additional efforts should be made in the field of verification of the future treaty. My country has contributed to this work in the past and will continue to do so. Solid scientific knowledge is, we believe, necessary in order to achieve a set of reliable methods for all the various tasks of verification. This will continue to be the focus of the Finnish chemical weapons verification project.

(Mr. Alam Khan, India)

Before concluding, I would like to mention another important item before the Conference, that is, the negotiation of a treaty banning chemical weapons. The work already accomplished by the Conference has been promising. We are all very keen to see a convention on the prohibition of chemical weapons concluded as soon as possible. The Government of India is a Party to the 1925 Protocol on Chemical Weapons and is convinced of the need of a new régime which will complement the Geneva Protocol and prohibit completely the development, production, stockpiling and use of chemical weapons.

We have taken note of the important proposals submitted by the Honourable Minister of State of the United Kingdom, Mr. Luce; the question of non-production has a bearing on the civilian chemical industry of a large number of countries including our own. We will therefore study these proposals very carefully and with all the attention they deserve.