

(Mr. Batsanov, USSR)

our fundamental premise is that all the countries involved will be participating in our work in the most constructive fashion, remembering that our common purpose is to move forward along the path of arms limitation and disarmament, and that this can be achieved only if you respect your negotiating partner and if you set yourself the goal of progress at disarmament negotiations. It is quite obvious that a different approach - the introduction of elements of confrontation - cannot either lead to success or earn respect. For my part, I should like to state that we will always be ready to lend the necessary support and co-operation to non-member States of the Conference which are going to participate in our joint work.

Mr. REESE (Australia): I take the floor today to speak about the participation this year of 30 non-member States in the Conference on Disarmament. I would hope to have a subsequent opportunity in the course of the Conference to speak about the broader interests Australia has in the area of arms control and disarmament.

Australia welcomes the interest shown by the 30 non-member States in applying to participate in the work of the Conference and in the work of the Ad hoc Committee on Chemical Weapons in particular. Australia supports the principle of the universality of participation in the work of the Ad hoc Committee on Chemical Weapons, which was endorsed at the Paris Conference. We see that participation as contributing to universal adherence to the Convention. The constructive participation of non-members in the negotiations is, therefore, important. We welcome the substantive contribution which a number of non-members have already made to the Committee's work, and we look forward to that contribution continuing.

In the critical year ahead of us in the Committee we would hope that all participating non-members ensure that their contributions are of a positive character and will help us in our negotiations to conclude the chemical weapons convention.