

The PRESIDENT (translated from French): I am grateful to Ambassador Ledogar for his concern for flexibility. It is my hope that the other representatives that have asked for the floor, beginning with the representative of Chile, will also demonstrate flexibility.

Mr. GONZALEZ (Chile) (translated from Spanish): That was just what my delegation had in mind. First of all, Mr. President, we wish to support you explicitly in the sense that we agree with your judgement that not all the statements which have been made in favour of the adoption of a draft convention on chemical weapons were half-hearted. We have been following this negotiation process closely and I think that here we need to clearly separate two things. This afternoon we have been involved in a lengthy procedural discussion which we feel is overshadowing the basic fact and the crucial issue, which is the following: we cannot ignore such a substantive aspect as the enormous number of statements made by the various countries on behalf of their Governments in support of the convention or the draft convention on chemical weapons; many of them bilateral, others trilateral - in short, of all kinds. Consequently we believe that it would not reflect the facts if, simply because a small number of delegations have problems with certain procedural aspects and not problems with matters of substance, a draft is sent to the General Assembly with an absolutely neutral phrase. Everybody with experience in negotiations in the General Assembly of the United Nations and in the context of the First Committee knows full well that if a draft is sent like that, it can turn into a real Pandora's box from which new amendments, new drafts, new alterations will emerge, and that the upshot will be that we will probably "recommence" a period of negotiations which could go on for another 20 years. My delegation at least is not prepared to start the process again and, as we have said publicly we think it is necessary to adopt this draft convention once and for all.

Mr. CALDERON (Peru) (translated from Spanish): I wish to speak very briefly just to state for the record the positive feelings with which my delegation viewed the second sentence in paragraph 74, in so far as it was drafted with the utmost care. That paragraph per se reflects the fact that there is not necessarily a consensus on the text, and that state of affairs could of course easily be acknowledged by this Conference. Nevertheless, my delegation, aware of the difficulties that some delegations have, thinks we could use the elements that appear in paragraph 18 of the Ad Hoc Committee's report, somewhat along the lines of what was stated by Ambassador Ledogar. However, my delegation would prefer not to go so far in that direction and, while keeping the existing sentence, in other words, the second sentence in paragraph 74, we suggest adding a first line which would read as follows:

(continued in English)

"Despite the positions expressed by some delegations, ..."

(continued in Spanish)

and then we would continue with the sentence as it is. The word "positions" is important since it is the word which we employ in paragraph 18 of the Ad Hoc Committee's report, strictly following the rules of procedure. So if we begin