

(Mr. Mashhadi, Islamic Republic of Iran)

The Islamic Republic of Iran also has strong reservations regarding the procedures leading to the appearance of provisions on the executive council. The negotiations were held in a non-transparent manner by those who were seeking privileges in the executive council. Such procedures are not compatible with the goals we are striving to achieve here.

Mrs. CLAUWAERT (Venezuela) (translated from Spanish): First of all I would like to congratulate you, Mr. President, on presiding over the work of this Conference, and I apologize for taking the floor so late. Today is a historic occasion in the work of the Conference on Disarmament. We have heard the report introduced by Ambassador von Wagner, the Ambassador of Germany, who served as Chairman of the Ad Hoc Committee on Chemical Weapons, and I say that today is a historic day, since we are receiving as the outcome of the Committee's work the draft convention on the prohibition of chemical weapons. The delegation of Venezuela expressed its support for the draft convention in the Committee and we now wish to reiterate that support in the plenary Conference on Disarmament. As has been said here, the text of the convention is not perfect; similarly there are other international instruments which are not perfect, and the delegation of Venezuela would have preferred firmer commitments on a number of aspects, such as fairer commitments to the financing of the organization, the composition of the executive council, and economic and technological development. On the other hand we should not fail to recognize that this draft convention offers many advantages to the international community and one of these is the clear commitment to prohibiting the future use of weapons of this kind; another is the agreement on their destruction. All these are significant achievements of the work of this Conference. We wish to congratulate Ambassador von Wagner on his untiring efforts in the Chair of the Committee to attain this objective. The delegation of Venezuela hopes that this Conference, with the example and the significant impetus given by the negotiations on chemical weapons, will be able to follow that example on other priority items that the Conference has before it.

The PRESIDENT (translated from French): I thank Mrs. Clauwaert for her statement and the kind words addressed to myself. Now there are really no speakers on the list and it is already 4.30 p.m. I suggest that the Conference should now proceed to adopt the report of the Ad Hoc Committee on Chemical Weapons which Ambassador von Wagner, its Chairman, introduced to us earlier and which bears the symbol CD/1170. If there is no objection, I shall take it that the Conference adopts this report. The representative of the Islamic Republic of Iran has the floor.

Mr. MASHHADI (Islamic Republic of Iran): I apologize, Mr. President. Would you clarify exactly what we are going to adopt? If it is the text of the draft convention, my delegation cannot agree with the inclusion of article VIII in the report. My delegation agrees that the whole text, except article VIII, be transmitted to the General Assembly, but not that part.