

(Mr. Fan, China)

Lastly, I would like to comment on the issue of proliferation of chemical weapons. China is opposed to the proliferation of chemical weapons in any form. The Final Declaration of the Paris Conference pointed out that "as long as such weapons remain and are spread", there is a risk of their use, posing an increasingly serious threat to international peace and security. The spread of chemical weapons is indeed harmful to world peace and regional security, but the existing chemical weapons are serious threats to international peace and security as well. The maintenance of chemical weapons, and continuation of the production and improvement of chemical weapons, not only militate against prevention of the proliferation of chemical weapons but also run counter to international efforts to eliminate such weapons through the conclusion of a convention which completely bans chemical weapons. In this regard, the Chinese Foreign Minister proposed in his statement at the Paris Conference that "the countries with the largest arsenals of chemical weapons should take the lead in ensuring an immediate halt to the development, production and transfer of chemical weapons, undertaking never to use such weapons and pledging to destroy them within the shortest possible time. All chemical-weapon-capable countries should stop research, development and production of chemical weapons."

The Chinese delegation has noted that in his statement to the CD on 2 March, His Excellency Mr. Genscher, the Foreign Minister of the Federal Republic of Germany, emphasized that the really effective way to solve the problem of the proliferation of chemical weapons lay in the conclusion of a global convention on the complete prohibition of chemical weapons and the total destruction of existing chemical arsenals. He rightly pointed out that "the risk of proliferation will grow as long as this legal vacuum persists". He further stated: "I strongly warn against confining the fight against chemical weapons to measures designed to prevent their spread. Such an approach would undermine the determination of the international community to effectively ban chemical weapons through a global comprehensive convention."

The complete prohibition of chemical weapons is an urgent and arduous task facing mankind. Time and tide wait for no man. Let us seize the historic opportunity to achieve the lofty objective of completely banning chemical weapons at the earliest date. At this crucial stage of negotiations on the prohibition of chemical weapons, the Chinese delegation will as always continue with its efforts to bring about a complete ban on chemical weapons.

Mr. REESE (Australia):

... Like our Belgian colleague, I have asked for the floor this morning to speak about a national trial inspection. I wish to introduce document CD/910, concurrently numbered CD/CW/WP.234, which contains the report of a national trial inspection carried out by Australia from 17-18 November 1988.