

(Mr. Kostov, Bulgaria)

The proposal of the Soviet delegation made by Ambassador Y. Nazarkin on 11 August of this year, for the working out of collective measures among the States parties to the convention in order to resist the use or threat of use of chemical weapons, is very timely. We consider that it would be advisable to think about the elaboration of measures both of a technical and of a political nature.

In principle everyone shares the view that the convention should not harm the legitimate interests of the States parties in developing their civil chemical industries. We were puzzled at the difficulties which emerged in the process of elaboration of the provisions for widening economic, scientific and technical co-operation in the production and consumption of chemicals for peaceful purposes. Bulgaria is interested in taking part in such co-operation on a bilateral and multilateral basis. Therefore, we are encouraged by the progress achieved in Group A.

It is high time for the negotiations to become more intensive and purposeful on certain political and financial aspects of the convention. It is true that the problems related to the composition of the Executive Council and the setting up and functioning of the bodies which will be entrusted with the implementation of the convention are not without analogy in international relations. But it is also true that they are so specific in nature as to preclude borrowing in a mechanical way from past and existing experience.

We note with satisfaction that the Chairman of the Ad hoc Committee, Ambassador Sujka, has given impetus to the work on the final provisions of the convention. We think that the revised document presented by him for discussion is a good basis for our future work; it creates preconditions for making progress in the elaboration of articles XII to XVI - provisions which are important for the viability and effectiveness of the convention.

In our view it is desirable for efforts to finalize the convention to be supported by practical steps which would facilitate its signature and entry into force. We welcome with satisfaction the statements made by the delegations of Australia and Austria concerning the placing of controls on production of and trade in a certain category of chemicals. In this connection I would like to remind the Conference of the fact that on 30 December 1986 my Government approved a decree setting out restrictions on the export of dual-purpose chemicals.

In our assessment the summer session will make progress in solving some problems of the negotiations. But should we be satisfied with the pace of the negotiations? We are not inclined to give an affirmative answer to this question. My delegation supports the view that advantage should be taken of the inter-sessional period as much as possible to continue the negotiations. It is advisable for us to use in the most rational manner the time from November, i.e. after the completion of the work of the First Committee of the General Assembly, until the end of January 1989. Obviously this goal will be easier to achieve if we succeed in determining the issues on which the negotiations should concentrate during the inter-sessional period. It is necessary to do everything possible so that in 1989 the Conference will overcome the last obstacles blocking the way to finalizing a convention on the prohibition of chemical weapons. My delegation is ready to take part actively in this process.