

(Mr. Ledogar, United States)

... The United States has worked in good faith to make the CD a viable institution. We have sought to make arms control work, to establish principles and reach agreements that would improve the security of everyone. We have also learned our limits: for instance, we have found that setting examples which we are assured others will follow often results in pressure for more examples, with little attention to whether anyone has followed the original example. When we unilaterally declared our CW stocks, only the USSR followed our example. We are still waiting for other declarations. This atmosphere is not helpful to the CD's objectives, and it makes it harder for my country to place its full confidence in this Organization's work.

Mr. OMAR (Libyan Arab Jamahiriya) (translated from Arabic): I am happy and honoured to address this august Conference for the first time. Allow me, Sir, to express our congratulations to you on taking up the presidency of this Conference for this month. We are sure that your wide experience will be of the greatest assistance in the attainment of excellent results. I wish to express our gratitude and appreciation for the endeavours of your predecessor, the Ambassador of the Netherlands, who guided the work of this Conference during the month of February. I would like also to express our appreciation to you and to all the members of the Conference who responded positively to the Libyan Arab Jamahiriya's request to participate as an observer in the plenary meetings of the Conference and its Ad hoc Committee on Chemical Weapons.

Although our participation last year was limited owing to our limited experience in the field, we intend to develop our participation in the future in co-operation with the developing countries, in order to make it more effective. I am happy to be addressing the body which was assigned by the General Assembly to consider the question of disarmament referred to in paragraph 1 of article 11 of the Charter of the United Nations. This question relates closely to the purposes of the United Nations, particularly the maintenance of international peace and security and the development of friendly relations among nations. If these purposes are achieved in the manner envisioned, they will provide all nations, and particularly the nations of the third world, with real opportunities for economic and social progress and development.