

(Mr. Benhima, Morocco)

Ambassador Hyltenius the Ad hoc Committee will achieve a breakthrough which will clear the way for further progress. The consensus reached at the Paris Conference, the Canberra declaration and General Assembly resolution 44/115A are all calls to the Conference to step up its work.

The current intensification of the negotiations, particularly in the light of the progress made in the bilateral American-Soviet talks, should allow a substantial reduction in points of divergence - we hope it will - and bring us closer to the finalization of the convention. In this context, my delegation shares the view that the keystone of the future convention should be an adequate system to verify compliance with the obligations arising from the treaty. Only a rigorous verification system can create confidence amongst the States parties. The proliferation of procedures which are at present being studied seems to us to be a positive factor, because it proves that effective verification is within our grasp since it is the expression of unanimity. To this end, we consider it essential to provide the inspection machinery with adequate resources so that it can carry out its mission properly. This machinery will have to have the necessary powers to enable it to make a judgement concerning compliance with the norms of the convention and the inspection reports submitted to it. An atmosphere of trust and co-operation should govern the conduct and implementation of this operation. The team responsible for the inspection should benefit from understanding and assistance on the part of the national authorities of the country being visited.

The scope of the future convention is also an issue of great importance, making it possible to gauge the extent of our commitments and give them appropriate content in accordance with the relevant resolutions of the United Nations, and particularly the Final Document of 1978. Our task is to proceed to the elimination of the production and stockpiling of chemical weapons and their destruction, it being understood that the essential goal is the absolute prohibition of their use. On this latter aspect of the scope of the convention, my delegation, like all the members of the Group of 21, regrets the lack of consensus on the inclusion of the question of banning the use of chemical weapons in the mandate of the Ad hoc Committee. Since these elements represent the very reason why the convention exists, it goes without saying that its legal régime should be developed in such a way as to ensure that these postulates do not suffer from any exceptions. We must certainly set up flexible machinery which could help the parties to reach agreement on the entire text of the convention but that should in no way furnish a means by which the obligations entered into by all the parties could be weakened. It is just as necessary to arrive at unanimously agreed measures intended to deal with any situation which is not in accordance with the fundamental provisions of the treaty.

The realization of the international community's wish to produce a finalized chemical weapons treaty is above all a question of political will. This will is vital to ensure agreement by all concerned, particularly for achieving universality, a fundamental characteristic of this instrument without which our efforts would be in danger of being incomplete. The same political will should govern the search for consensus on the subject of the composition of the bodies responsible for monitoring the application of the