

(Mr. Turbanski, Poland)

With regard to the agenda item concerning the prohibition of chemical weapons, the socialist countries deplore the meagre results that were achieved during this session despite strenuous efforts to make progress. The work of the Ad Hoc Committee on Chemical Weapons does not allow for satisfaction. We are firmly convinced that the proposals introduced by the Soviet Union and other socialist countries provide a realistic basis for a mutually acceptable agreement on banning chemical weapons. Verification problems should not be used to impede reaching such an agreement. Unfortunately, the draft proposed by the United States delegation (CD/500) has set the talks back by its unrealistic demands in the field of verification. Verification measures should not be discriminatory and in no case be used to interfere in the internal affairs of States or damage their security. The primary task of the Ad Hoc Committee in this respect is to work out such measures and forms of verification that would be both effective and practically feasible. We reiterate that if there is the will to agree on specific disarmament measures, the question of their verification has never been and cannot be an obstacle. Furthermore, the banning of binary chemical weapons should be among the central issues of the future convention. Statements by representatives of the United States Administration and top-ranking NATO officials about the importance and the substantial role played by these weapons in military plans only confirm that binary weapons must be clearly and specifically banned by the convention.

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(Mr. Kazemi Kamyab, Islamic Republic of Iran)

In the framework of the issues concerning the Conference on Disarmament, during the course of this year events occurred which were unfortunate both from a global and a national point of view. From the global point of view, 60 years after the date of the establishment of the Geneva Protocol of 1925, this Protocol was violated by the massive use of chemical weapons on the part of a Member State. At the same time, from the point of view of my country, this has been an unfortunate year as it was the victim of chemical warfare. It should be appreciated that for the first time in history the use of chemical weapons was discussed, reviewed and acknowledged by international organizations.

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