

(Mr. Turbanski, Poland)

The negotiating process with regard to the banning of chemical weapons is relatively advanced. During last year's session, under the very able and dedicated chairmanship of Ambassador Ekéus of Sweden, a lot of hard and useful work towards further clarification of some very important questions has been done, although no major breakthrough could be achieved. We believe, however, that at this stage of the negotiations substantial progress is within our reach if only we all work with the greatest seriousness, desire for mutual accommodation and recognition of other States' legitimate interests. The provisions which are to be worked out have to be of extreme accuracy. At the same time they must not go into inordinately tiny details. Such a tendency could defer reaching final results almost indefinitely. It is best to avoid unrealistic expectations. No convention, existing or future, can settle all conceivable situations and cases. To find this subtle demarcation line will unquestionably be a very difficult but nevertheless feasible task.

I should also like to see the work on a chemical weapons convention proceed on a double track, that is, by trying to reach common understanding on some of the most difficult problems while at the same time moving forward on issues where there is less discrepancy of views.

Before concluding, I wish also to express our appreciation for the work done during the January session of the Ad Hoc Committee on Chemical Weapons and the report delivered by its Chairman, which we are about to adopt. I hope that the business-like manner which characterized this work will prevail during the present session of the Ad Hoc Committee.