

(Mr. Sujka, Poland)

\*\*\* In my today's statement I should like to concentrate on the chemical weapons ban. The Conference on Disarmament has started this year's consideration of this agenda item in very favourable conditions created by the successful conclusion of the Paris Conference. One hundred and forty nine countries expressed in the form of a final declaration their unequivocal demand for the conclusion at an early date of a convention aimed at total elimination of all chemical weapons. The Paris Declaration contains something we have been seeking for so long - clearly expressed political will, which is a decisive prerequisite for progress in our negotiations. This fresh political impetus generated by Paris was accompanied by the creative and competent guidance of the present Chairman of the Ad hoc Committee, Ambassador Pierre Morel. And, indeed, important steps were undertaken to intensify the pace of negotiations. I wish to pay our tribute also to Ambassador Morel's closest collaborators in this endeavour, the chairmen of the five working groups.

An organizational restructuring of the Committee aroused expectations of fulfilling the mandate of the Paris Conference to concentrate our redoubled efforts on resolving expeditiously the remaining unsolved issues. This approach offered additional opportunities to enter into the decisive stage of our negotiations towards finalizing the convention. Did we take full advantage of these opportunities? It is very difficult to give a fully satisfactory answer.

Undoubtedly, in the course of long years of negotiation we have made considerable progress. Ten years have passed since the year when an ad hoc subsidiary body for chemical weapons was established for the first time. It has been re-established in each of the subsequent years. We have been through several stages in the process of negotiations on the convention: starting from identifying its scope, outlines and structure, shaping its skeleton, through consecutive steps of fleshing it out with appropriate formulas reflecting the positions of the negotiators on different aspects of the convention, particularly on the scope of obligations, their substance and their structure, on different types, measures and mechanisms of verification of compliance with the convention, and on legal, technological, economic and financial aspects of the implementation process and its consequences. The present "rolling text" in fact contains agreed substantive material and an inventory of negotiator's positions on all envisaged articles of the convention. They differ in the degree of detail or in the scale of convergence. Nevertheless, we have a clear picture of the various problems and their ingredient elements, even those which need further elaboration or on which divergences still exist. We call them "outstanding issues".

The harvest of 10 years of the Committee's work is really rich and significant. It is especially so in view of the complexity of the subject of the negotiation, unprecedented from the point of view of its scope as well as the number of participants. What is more, in many cases the output of our work actually exceeds the requirements of the process of drafting the convention. The collected material can not only be used for the elaboration