

(Mr. Adeniji, Nigeria)

... It is a welcome relief to note that some progress has been made in the negotiations in the Ad hoc Committee on Chemical Weapons with a view to achieving accord on a chemical weapons convention. I would like to appeal to all members of the Conference to do their utmost to ensure the early conclusion of the Convention. I do realize that some details still remain to be resolved. However, given the prevailing spirit of understanding and flexibility which is being shown, I am optimistic that a chemical weapons convention is within reach of the Conference. When it does happen, and I hope it will be sooner rather than later, it will be a most welcome breakthrough which should have positive effect on negotiations on other priority areas.

Mr. SCHUURMAN VOLKER (Netherlands): Mr. President, although my Ambassador will do this more extensively at a later stage, allow me nevertheless to congratulate you on the assumption of the Presidency.

I noted that you introduced, in your presidential statement, a quotation from the statement recently made by the Warsaw Treaty Organization Foreign Ministers on CW. I am sure that you were moved to do so by the importance of the subject, and that you did not want to suggest in any way that this subject does not have priority for others. Allow me to recall in this respect the communiqué of NATO Foreign Ministers in December of last year, in which they stated that they seek with determination to reach a convention on CW that will be effectively verifiable.