

(Mr. Amorim, Brazil)

are in fact committed to do so and have pledged to become original signatories of such an instrument; reference to the Mendoza Declaration has already been made by Minister Evans himself.

One month ago, Ambassador Roberto García Moritán, of Argentina, addressed the plenary of the Conference on Disarmament to express the views of Brazil and Argentina with regard to the ongoing negotiations on the chemical weapons convention. I don't want to repeat his words. Let me only say that on that occasion he said that the time has come for us to gather all the elements we have been negotiating upon, to conclude the final draft without delay and to put it up for decision by plenipotentiaries. I must say I do agree with what was said by Minister Evans that the convention is within our grasp.

We welcome the draft presented by Australia with this sense of urgency in mind. We are prepared to support all those parts of the text proposed that can be taken up as acceptable compromises for the conclusion of our work.

Argentina and Brazil think that there is no alternative to negotiated solutions for the delicate problems we have encountered in about eight years of work in the Ad Hoc Committee on Chemical Weapons. In this spirit, we welcome Senator Evans' indication that this initiative is not presented as the final word regarding the various complex issues still open, nor as a "take it or leave it" text. Important issues will require common understanding, such as "challenge inspections", export control and related methods such as economic and technological development, the verification of the chemical industry and the financing of the future organization for the prohibition of chemical weapons. We are confident that a good sense of compromise will prevail. With this in mind our delegations have been participating actively in the Ad Hoc Committee. Its Chairman, Ambassador Adolf Ritter von Wagner, of Germany, was reassured of our full support for the skilful job he is doing. Ambassador von Wagner's tireless efforts will certainly guide us towards the production of an acceptable draft convention.

I would like to conclude by reiterating the thanks expressed in Brasilia and Buenos Aires to Minister Gareth Evans for the initiative of the Government of Australia in presenting this draft convention. The Australian initiative shows us a way to reach understanding and one that could very well lead us to the long-awaited solutions.