

(Mr. Bagbeni, Zaire)

that end my delegation wishes to congratulate all the chairmen of the Ad Hoc Committee on Chemical Weapons who have worked steadfastly to finalize the text of this convention on chemical weapons after the intensive negotiations and consultations they had to conduct for that purpose. The question of the conclusion of an international convention on chemical weapons which is on the agenda of this Conference is, without any doubt, one of the subjects that has focused the greatest attention of the international community in recent years. The Geneva Protocol of 1925 on chemical weapons signed under the auspices of the League of Nations raised complex questions, so much so that many countries did not hesitate to circumvent it, if not disregard it. That is why, following so much improper use of the relevant provisions of the Protocol, this question has been the subject of substantial discussions here in Geneva on many occasions in order to add to it and develop it.

Since the international conference on chemical weapons held in Paris, notable progress has been made in Geneva. So many obstacles have been removed, so many rewarding discussions have been held on chemical weapons, but what is important is that we must crown our efforts, because between now and the end of the year this convention will be concluded, and therefore signed by all the States parties - at least that is our hope.