

Mr. MARIN BOSCH (Mexico) (translated from Spanish): The Group of 21 is very gratified at the decision we have just taken to appoint Ambassador Hyltenius of Sweden to chair the Ad hoc Committee on Chemical Weapons. Those of us who work alongside him in the Group of 21 know his skills and human qualities, and we are sure that at this important stage in the work of the Committee he will be able to bring the work entrusted to it to a successful conclusion.

On behalf of the Group of 21 I should like to make the following statement following the re-establishment of the Ad hoc Committee on Chemical Weapons.

(continued in English)

On 6 February 1990 the Group of 21 made a statement with regard to the mandate of the Ad hoc Committee on Chemical Weapons. It set forth its position on elements that should be included in the mandate, that is, the time factor, the deletion of the restriction on final drafting and a reference to the prohibition of use.

The Group of 21 welcomes the inclusion of the first two elements in the mandate just adopted by the Conference. However, it is to the deep regret of the Group of 21 that the Conference has not been able to include a reference to the prohibition of use.

The Group of 21 has joined the consensus on the mandate in order to ensure the prompt resumption of the important work of the Ad hoc Committee on Chemical Weapons. We continue to believe that the present mandate does not specify in clear terms that the prohibition of use is covered. This element is of paramount importance to the Group, as well as to the vast majority of other members of the Conference.

Mr. SUJKA (Poland): Mr. President, my delegation will have the opportunity to welcome the new colleagues who have recently joined us in our work in the Conference on Disarmament. I would, therefore, like to limit myself to expressing my personal satisfaction to see you in the Chair. I keep in my memory very pleasant impressions of our close contacts and co-operation from the years you and I were for the first time assigned to this body. May I also wholeheartedly congratulate Ambassador Hyltenius on his appointment as the Chairman of the Ad hoc Committee on Chemical Weapons for this 1990 session, and offer him our full co-operation in his endeavours in fulfilling his very important job?

In my capacity as Item Co-ordinator, I should like on behalf of our Group to place on record the following statement on the re-establishment of the Ad hoc Committee on Chemical Weapons. Our Group welcomes the re-establishment of the Ad hoc Committee on Chemical Weapons and expresses its hope and belief that under the new Chairman, the intensive pace of negotiations towards the early conclusion of the chemical weapons convention will be continued. Once again, I would like to congratulate Ambassador Morel for the competent and creative manner in which he steered the work of the Committee last session. We have just adopted a new mandate for the Ad hoc Committee; we are