

The PRESIDENT (translated from French): I must get my list of speakers in order, otherwise I am going to offend some of my colleagues. The representative of the United Kingdom is the first on the list, followed by the representative of Italy and then the representative of Hungary. I give the floor to Sir Michael Weston.

Sir Michael WESTON (United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland): Mr. President, I'm now going to ask if you would consider suspending the meeting for 10 minutes. We believe that we are making progress here, but we would find it easier to do in a corner. So if you would give us 10 minutes, I believe we could come back with something useful.

The PRESIDENT (translated from French): I was ready to suspend the meeting a while ago, when the request was made, but the representative of Nigeria objected, as well as the representative of France, if I understood correctly. Now the representative of the United Kingdom, in a spirit of understanding, is proposing that we suspend the meeting for 10 minutes. It would seem that an agreement is within reach. Are there any objections? There are no objections. I note that the representative of Brazil had asked for the floor; I give it to him.

Mr. FELICIO (Brazil) (translated from French): Mr. President, it seems I have the same problem as the representative of Australia: I am very close to you in this room, and in my feelings too. The Brazilian delegation has no objections to the suspension of the meeting, but wishes, at this stage, to place its position on the record of the official meeting. It has not participated up to now in the discussions, which dealt with points which the Brazilian delegation does not feel to be very important. What is important is that the draft convention on chemical weapons has been supported by a very large number of countries. When we have the opportunity to read the proceedings of this session, we will realize that it is actually a very large majority of States members of the Conference on Disarmament, and observer States too, that support the draft convention on chemical weapons - all those States would undoubtedly like to transmit the draft with a positive recommendation to the General Assembly.

The PRESIDENT (translated from French): The representatives of Italy and Hungary have asked for the floor. Can they wait and speak after the meeting is resumed, or do they really want to do so before the suspension? I give the floor to the representative of Italy.

Mr. FRANCESE (Italy): My delegation wants only to make a point of principle in the debates in which it has refrained from taking part so far, because it feels that the word "consensus" is being grossly abused in this instance. The consensus about the basic decision to take is being taken, the decision to transfer this document to the forty-seventh General Assembly of the United Nations. What we are now discussing is whether we have to present the kind of atmosphere prevailing in this body now in a proper and descriptive manner or not. In other words, we are looking for consensus to describe correctly the situation here, or on the contrary, we will draw consensus from describing the situation as it is here. It is this that I want you to make clear for the memory of those present in this room. But certainly my