

(Mr. Friedersdorf, United States of America)

Clearly, the issues I have mentioned are not the only difficult ones remaining. Ambassador Ekéus listed other issues in his important statement on Tuesday. Other delegations may want to highlight other issues as well. We urge them to do so in order that everyone may have a clear picture of where the real problems lie. A convention will only be achieved with a better sense of priorities and the scope of the work remaining.

I want to emphasize the need for creative approaches to the unique challenges posed by a chemical weapons ban. This year a number of imaginative ideas have been put forward, for example, suggestions for promoting a truly global convention; for building confidence during the negotiations; for creating a badly needed data base; for testing inspection procedures; and for increasing the effectiveness of the régime for monitoring the chemical industry. Open-ended consultations on trial inspections, under the chairmanship of Ambassador Ekéus, have produced a valuable compilation of suggestions. In each case the authors of these ideas have each made an important contribution. They have given us new, potentially fruitful approaches to the complex and difficult problems that must be resolved.

In addition, Norway has presented further results of its very useful studies on investigation of alleged use of chemical weapons. Finland has also presented additional findings of its uniquely thorough research. We consider these research efforts on verification methods to be important contributions to the progress of the negotiations. These contributions enrich the negotiations and provide the intellectual capital needed to construct a sound agreement. In short, they are part of our common effort to move forward together toward the achievement of a convention that truly meets the security needs of the world community.

Many more new ideas are needed - and from more delegations. Those who wish to see further progress in the negotiations have an obligation to contribute the new ideas that will make this progress a reality. We hope that when the negotiations resume, such additional proposals will be forthcoming and that further progress will be the result.

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Mr. ASIF EZDI (Pakistan):

The importance of a comprehensive, effective, verifiable and equitable ban on chemical weapons is more evident today than it has ever been before. Independent investigations by the United Nations have made repeated findings of the almost routine use of these weapons in the Iran-Iraq war. Among the victims have been not only military personnel but also innocent civilians. The world-wide outrage and distress at this flagrant violation of the Geneva Protocol was not, however, sufficient to deter the use of these abhorrent weapons. On the contrary, their use was intensified and became more frequent in later months. We view these developments with grave concern. The Iran-Iraq war has demonstrated the military utility of chemical weapons. These weapons have helped the users in winning successes on the battlefield. The prohibition on the use of chemical weapons seems to have been weakened. These are lessons which will have to be borne in mind in our task of drafting an effective chemical weapons convention.