

(Mr. Kamal, Pakistan)

Before concluding, I would like to express my delegation's appreciation for the initiatives taken by the Government of Finland to train technical personnel from developing countries, who could eventually serve as inspectors in the technical secretariat. We have benefited from this programme and fully realize its utility. We would also like to welcome the similar initiatives announced by Germany and the Netherlands recently, and hope that the many other developed States who have significant chemical industries, and who are in a position to share technical expertise with developing countries, will follow suit. Such efforts would no doubt contribute to creating an equitable proportionality in the future technical secretariat, and particularly among its inspectors. Without such balance, the technical secretariat would remain open to constant criticism, and its impartiality in constant doubt.

The issues that we have highlighted are not problems and difficulties, but opportunities for creating a truly universal disarmament treaty. The procedures employed until now to conclude the convention have produced some positive results, but much more still needs to be done. Given the political commitment exhibited by everyone around this table there is no reason why we should not be able to meet the deadline we have set for ourselves. We should, above all, not exclude the possibility of pursuing the fresh process initiated by Ambassador von Wagner earlier this year in attempting to achieve our objective. It is in this context that the important Australian initiative that has been tabled today has to be read. The convention, once it is concluded, will symbolize the will of the international community to banish a truly abhorrent weapon of warfare for all time. This is our Holy Grail, and we are convinced that we are nearing the end of our search for it.