

(Mr. Turbanski, Poland)

I listened with great interest to this morning's statements by the distinguished representatives of Finland and Norway devoted to chemical weapons. Those statements are still further proof of their countries' deep and active interest in, and important contributions to the negotiations on the chemical weapons convention. Before I finish my statement, I would also like to touch briefly on the work of the Committee on Chemical Weapons.

My task is easier today as Ambassador Y.K. Nazarkin of the Soviet Union, in his statement on 2 July 1987, gave an evaluation of the present stage of the negotiations with regard to a chemical weapons convention and expressed his delegation's uneasiness at the slowing down of the pace of work of the Committee. My delegation fully shares his analysis and conclusions. In our opinion, if we are to achieve decisive progress this year, as is professed to be the desire of all, we have to concentrate our efforts more on the still outstanding priority aspects of the convention rather than on issues of lesser importance or urgency.

In particular, more goal-oriented and intensive work should and can be done with regard to the finalization of articles IV, V and VI, including the definition of a production facility, the order of destruction of chemical weapons and régimes for super-toxic lethal chemicals remaining outside schedule [1]. Moreover, challenge inspection, usefully dealt with by the Chairman of the Ad hoc Committee during the spring session, should be taken up by the Committee more vigorously.

We are grateful to the Chairman of the Committee, Ambassador Rolf Ekéus, and to the cluster co-ordinators, Mr. Krutzsch, Mr. Macedo and Mr. Nieuwenhuys, for their strenuous efforts, but real progress can only come as a result of the common endeavours of all delegations and their genuine will to make such progress.

Poland, being a country which does not produce, possess or intend to acquire chemical weapons, is doing its best within its power to contribute to the prompt finalization of the convention. The destruction of existing chemical weapons and their elimination from military arsenals for ever will be a long and difficult process, demanding strict and so far unheard-of international control. It is therefore in our common interest to begin the process as soon as possible. We support all initiatives which may be helpful to eliminating chemical weapons, including regional solutions.

On the other hand, we are deeply concerned with some States' activities leading toward the initiation of production of a new generation of chemical weapons. Likewise disquieting are proposals put forward at our Conference which would allow for the production of chemical weapons after the process of destruction has started. Such an attitude, in our opinion, runs against the spirit and the letter of the future convention. Indeed, we hope that the authors of CD/757 will reconsider their position in favour of our common goal -- an effective convention on a chemical-weapons ban.