

(Mr. Kozyrev, Russian Federation)

I should like to take this opportunity, Mr. President, to wish success to the new Chairman of the Ad Hoc Committee on Chemical Weapons, Ambassador von Wagner, and to assure him of our unswerving support.

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Mr. von WAGNER (Germany): Mr. President, may I, through you, thank the Foreign Minister of the Russian Federation, His Excellency Andrei Kozyrev, for the kind words he addressed to Minister Genscher and to my humble self.

With our negotiations on the Chemical Weapons Convention entering a final stage and our common goal coming within reach, very practical issues become more and more important. I am referring to those issues related to the work of the Preparatory Committee and the establishment of the future organization. In this context, one important issue is the composition of the staff of the future Technical Secretariat and Inspectorate.

Today, in my capacity as head of the German delegation, I would like to reiterate what has always been our position in this respect: We believe that the recruitment of staff personnel must provide, of course, the appropriate verification expertise to the Technical Secretariat. This, however, would not be enough. It must also be ensured that personnel from all regions be included in the technical staff.

In this context, the German Government has welcomed the active role of Finland in research and development of analytical methods of verification, a project recognized and appreciated by all of us. Finland has also taken the lead in sharing the experience it has gained in this field, not only through

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