

(Mr. Ekéus, Sweden)

Due to the short time available for the Committee meeting in January, it is not my intention to re-establish the Working Groups within the Committee. Instead I intend to use the services of the Chairmen of the Groups to the fullest possible extent for the consultations envisaged during the meeting.

Mr. President, let me add to these three observations the importance of time. The dangerous international situation is a continuous and mounting threat to our negotiations. Use of chemical weapons in ongoing or future conflicts can jeopardize the progress of the negotiations. And worse, a breakdown of our negotiations would have most serious implications, and most certainly open the way for an arms race in chemical weapons with the gravest consequences for all aspects of all disarmament and arms control efforts: All delegations must therefore continue to work constructively — and with the greatest speed.