

(Mr. Hou, China)

those ad hoc committees, are consistent and well known to everyone, and therefore I will not elaborate. I would like to emphasize here that it has been the common objective cherished and pursued by people all over the world to free the world from chemical weapons. The conclusion of the negotiations on a convention on the complete prohibition and thorough destruction of chemical weapons is an important task entrusted to the Conference on Disarmament by the international community. The current developments in the international situation have further proved the importance and urgency of accomplishing this historic task at an early date. The Chinese delegation would like to reiterate that the key to the success of our negotiations on a chemical weapons convention lies in firm adherence to the fundamental objective, namely the complete prohibition and thorough destruction of chemical weapons. It is a matter of course that an unconditional ban on the use of chemical weapons and the thorough destruction of all chemical weapons should be included. This is the common ground for the whole negotiation process. We are convinced that so long as all parties to the negotiations adhere to this commitment by conducting earnest and pragmatic negotiations and fully demonstrate their political will, we will surely attain our goal.

It is the set objective of China to work actively for the early conclusion of such a convention. The Chinese delegation will, as always, continue to co-operate with other delegations in a constructive and earnest manner in our joint efforts to achieve the early conclusion of a convention on the complete prohibition and thorough destruction of chemical weapons.

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(The President)

... The decision we have just taken on agenda item 4 once again signifies the spirit of compromise displayed by all groups and delegations. I do hope that, as the President of Sri Lanka stated in his message to the Conference, the demonstrated willingness to get on with the work of conclusively negotiating a treaty on this subject will augur well for the early realization of the convention. The meticulous care and skill with which the Chairman of the Committee, Ambassador Batsanov, has embarked upon his onerous duties make us confident that the Committee will make decisive progress this year.