

The PRESIDENT:

... I now wish to turn to our business for today. I should like to inform you that the report of the Ad hoc Committee on Chemical Weapons, covering its inter-sessional work, will be available as document CD/1046 for our next plenary meeting on Thursday. On that occasion, the Chairman of the Ad hoc Committee, Ambassador Hyltenius of Sweden, will introduce it. At the following plenary meeting of the Conference, to be held on 7 February, I shall invite the Conference to adopt the report contained in document CD/1046. In connection with the re-establishment of the Ad hoc Committee, which was recommended to us as a priority matter in its report on the 1990 session, I am continuing my consultations on its future mandate. I do hope that it will be possible for us to agree soon on the re-establishment of this subsidiary body, so that negotiations on the "rolling text" can proceed without delay.

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Mr. HYLTIENIUS (Sweden): I have the honour today to introduce the report of the Ad Hoc Committee on Chemical Weapons (CD/1046).

As you will recall, the Conference decided at the last meeting of the summer part of its session that the Ad Hoc Committee should hold open-ended consultations from 26 November to 21 December 1990, followed by a session of limited duration during the period 8 to 18 January 1991. As a result of this inter-sessional work the earlier report submitted to the Conference in August last year (contained in document CD/1033) has been considerably amended. Several new documents have been drafted, and parts of the earlier text have been moved from appendix II to appendix I and thus now form part of the so-called "rolling text". Moreover, the part of the "rolling text" containing the articles of the convention has been edited to make it more consistent and readable.

In 1990 the political issues involved in the drafting of the future convention were addressed to a much greater extent than before. This was done in a number of ways. The most comprehensive effort took place in the open-ended consultations on undiminished security and universal adherence. A convention of this magnitude cannot be dealt with only on a piecemeal basis. It is necessary also to have an overview of the political context and the component parts in their interrelationship. It became clear from the consultations that the convention must be effective and non-discriminatory in order to be sufficiently attractive. It must be considered an advantage to become a party to the convention. Correspondingly, it must be unattractive to stay outside. I believe that the open-ended consultations on these matters have increased understanding of the issues involved and thereby prepared the ground for final agreement on them. It has also opened a discussion on what can be done at this stage to promote widest possible adherence to the convention by means of declarations of intent, regional initiatives, etc.

My summary of the open-ended consultations on undiminished security and universal adherence is contained in appendix II to the Committee's report. In this context I note with particular satisfaction the increased number of