

(Mr. Zniber, Morocco)

together with his highly competent delegation, on the unswerving dedication they have brought to their task. At the same time I would like to express our entire satisfaction with the valuable contribution made by the secretariat, which has spared no effort to make the delegations' work easier. In particular I wish to congratulate Mr. Abdelkader Bensmail and all his colleagues on the quality of the work done.

The delegation of the Kingdom of Morocco considers that despite its imperfections, the draft convention on chemical weapons set forth in document CD/CW/WP.400/Rev.2 constitutes a serious guarantee for the security of all States that sign it and that it secures the prerequisites for confident and fruitful cooperation between them in the field of chemical industry for peaceful purposes.

The arduous quest for a delicate balance, firstly to allay the rightful anxieties of some and the equally justifiable concerns of others, and secondly, between the rights and the obligations arising for all out of its implementation, does not seem to us to have been entirely successful. We regret this. However, the will to measure up to the expectations of the international community, on the basis of perseverance by everyone, has prevailed over doubts and misgivings. Therefore, taking into account the merits it has to show, and not losing sight of its shortcomings, the delegation of the Kingdom of Morocco is ready to support the approval of the draft text set forth in document CD/CW/WP.400/Rev.2 as the convention on the prohibition of chemical weapons and on their destruction. It expresses the hope that this text will be adopted by consensus by the General Assembly and that any hesitations still persisting will disappear, so as to ensure both its universality and its smooth application.

Mr. von ARX (Switzerland) (translated from French):

... Today we are in the final stage of a long-term effort - the finalization of an international instrument for the fullest possible elimination of chemical weapons, which, according to the experts, are hardly of decisive military value but rather a psychological weapon and an instrument of terror. The draft treaty set forth in document WP.400/Rev.2 is, of course, no more than a compromise, with all its attendant advantages and disadvantages. But all the treaties and conventions concluded in the disarmament control and arms