(Mr. van Schaik, Netherlands)

We were particularly gratified to see that our work on a chemical weapons convention could be resumed with exemplary speed. All our efforts should now be directed at early and substantive progress in the negotiations aimed at concluding an effectively verifiable convention banning all chemical weapons. We welcome the fact that at their summit meeting last November, the United States and the Soviet Union agreed to accelerate their efforts towards that goal. The negotiations on a chemical weapons ban can only benefit from that commitment.