

(Mr. Bayart, Mongolia)

Mongolia, being an ardent advocate of the complete prohibition and destruction of chemical weapons and the elimination of the industrial base for their production, is eager to make its modest contribution towards the speedy conclusion of an international convention on this subject. We believe that the elaboration of the convention can be successfully completed in the very near future if all the parties to the negotiations demonstrate their political will to reach the accords which are now so essential and not to create artificial obstacles.

One cannot overlook the fact that, during the second part of the current session of the Conference, the negotiations on banning chemical weapons have notably slowed down while there are still many major issues to be tackled. At the very outset of this year's session, my delegation suggested that the Ad hoc Committee on item 4 of our agenda should continue its work without interruption this year with a view to completing the early elaboration of the convention. This is called for both by the present state of the work of the Ad hoc Committee and by the existence of various technical questions with political implications which we will have to solve sooner or later.

The discussion in the Ad hoc Committee on questions related to the order of elimination of chemical weapon stockpiles shows that solution of this issue will to a large extent determine success not only with regard to article 4 of the convention but also the elaboration of the convention as a whole. The participants in the negotiations are well aware of my delegation's position on this score, which has been clearly formulated in working paper CD/CW/WP.162.

In my previous statements I have tried to clarify the essence of our proposal, according to which the order of elimination of chemical weapon stockpiles should be determined by comparing chemicals on the basis of their mass within categories which include chemicals of like effectiveness. Such an order solves the problem of what quantities of chemicals are subject to destruction, including both chemical warfare agents of different categories and munitions, devices and equipment. This approach also automatically settles the problem of what should be eliminated first -- chemical warfare agents or munitions, devices and equipment -- since they are all subject to parallel and simultaneous destruction. Therefore the suggested order provides that each State party to the convention possessing chemical weapon stockpiles should in each destruction period destroy no less than a ninth of each category of its stockpiles.

It must be underlined, in this connection, that the comparison of all chemical warfare agents, especially all super-toxic lethal chemicals, on the basis of their mass, within a category or even between categories which include a wide range of chemicals, without taking into account their properties and degrees of filling, is over-simplified. In our opinion, not all super-toxic lethal chemicals are comparable. Therefore such an approach could considerably complicate work on elaborating the order of destruction of chemical weapon stockpiles.

In formulating our proposal, we proceed from the main principle of undiminished security of all States during the entire destruction period.