

(Mr. Kamal, Pakistan)

We share the view expressed by a majority of delegations that the executive council should consist of between about 25 and 30 members. At the same time we also believe that the convention should contain provision for the expansion of the executive council in the future, if the situation so warrants.

While choosing a system for the allocation of seats, a balance has to be struck between the undeniable interests of those States which have substantial chemical industries many of which will either be directly concerned by the convention or whose cooperation will be essential, the equally undeniable interests of those States which are situated in particularly sensitive regions or who have specific threat perceptions, and the overall and overriding need for a democratic and regionally representative membership. However, some flexibility will be necessary so that no one of these three legitimacies overwhelms the other two, and so that the membership of this vital organ does not take on a colour that prejudices its decisions. We think a formula can be found, provided there is general agreement on the need for compromise and adjustment between these three types of interest.

We are now in a stage of intense and intensified work, when many factors lead us to believe that meaningful results can be achieved in negotiating and drafting a convention which will be comprehensive and fair, and which will then draw the type of universal adherence which we all seek. Let none of us be found wanting in far-sighted statesmanship now when the glimmer of success is in sight, and when we all see the positive and early possibility of outlawing an entire type of abhorrent weapon from our global community.