

(Mr. Bayart, Mongolia)

Mr. President, in my statement today, I would like to deal with item 4 of our agenda, that is, chemical weapons. Mongolia remains a staunch supporter of the early conclusion of a convention on the complete and effective prohibition of the development, production and stockpiling of chemical weapons and on their destruction. My country has already declared that it has no chemical weapons and does not intend to develop, produce or acquire any. We have done so proceeding, in particular, from our firm conviction that the convention will be concluded in the very near future, for ever putting an end to the chemical weapons threat. With this same conviction, I wish today to state that the Government of my country intends to be among the first to sign the convention as soon as it is ready for signature.

Since the resumption of negotiations on chemical weapons in July this year, the Chairman of the Ad hoc Committee, Ambassador Sujka of Poland, as well as the chairmen of the three working groups, have made significant efforts to arrive at mutually acceptable solutions to the outstanding problems. Yet the course of negotiations on the text of a draft convention leaves much to be desired. There is an imperative need for active efforts to resolve a number of key problems relating to the convention, political will and readiness on the part of all participants to come to an agreement. My delegation would like to make a few observations on some provisions of the draft convention which, in our opinion, have special significance.

In the course of this session, Group A has continued intensive work on article VI. In doing so, the participants in the negotiations have concentrated their attention mainly on schedules [1] chemicals and the activities connected with them. This is quite natural, since these chemicals pose the greatest risk for the implementation of the future convention. As is well known, the "rolling text" of the draft convention embodies unanimous agreement with respect to the production of these chemicals exclusively at a single small-scale facility, the capacity of which shall not exceed one metric ton per year. However, it is likely that as a special exception in the convention, the production of nitrogen mustard will be allowed outside the small-scale facility, provided that the production facilities are made subject to the same stringent verification régime as that envisaged for the small-scale facility.

Super-toxic lethal chemicals not included in schedule [1], in other words schedule [4] chemicals, as well as the corresponding production facilities, could also represent a significant danger to the purposes of the convention. All participants share this anxiety. We are of the opinion that the convention should have provisions that would preclude such a danger. We have

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