

(Mr. Karhilo, Finland)

The sole purpose of the Finnish Research Project has been to contribute to the CW negotiations. After the conclusion of the CW convention, the purpose of the project and its laboratory will be to contribute to the implementation of the convention. The organizational forms of the analytical work needed under the convention have not been discussed in detail so far. However, at this stage we can already pledge that whatever the organizational structures will be, the resources of the Finnish project, both scientific know-how and material facilities, will be dedicated to the service of the convention and the organization.

In this spirit, the Government of Finland has decided to offer these resources to be used as the core of the central laboratory of the CWC organization. The laboratory of the Finnish Research Project will meet the high requirements to be attached to such an international scientific institution. We believe that the best way to ensure the required high standard of quality, reliability and confidence for the analytical work is to base the organization's activities in this particular field on an established and well-known institution rather than on yet-to-be-created laboratories. The benefits of this approach are obvious.

A total ban on chemical weapons can be truly total only if it is universally adhered to. The universality of the convention will be its main pillar when it is in force, but is also the main factor behind the relatively slow progress in the negotiations. To take care of the interests of all nations in an equitable way and to assure them that no country will gain an undue edge, either military or technological, over the others is a demanding task. In order to achieve this, it is of the utmost importance that no country will be deprived of the possibility of participating in the negotiations if it wishes to do so. This basic requirement should be supported by other measures which serve the same goal of universality.

During the 1989 session we very much appreciated the extra care the Chairman of the Ad hoc Committee on Chemical Weapons took to encourage the observer delegations to participate actively, as well as to report on progress achieved to those delegations that are not represented at all in the negotiations. The regional efforts undertaken by Australia and Indonesia to promote awareness of CW issues is also a good example of possible measures. The Finnish CW verification training programme, too, is meant to serve the purpose of universality.

We wish the new Chairman of the Ad hoc Committee on Chemical Weapons, Ambassador Hyltenius of Sweden, every success in his demanding task of guiding the negotiations to a long-awaited final breakthrough.

I have spoken at length about CW issues, which relate to only one of the items before this Conference. This is due to the priority we attach to the rapid conclusion of the CW convention. I will now move to the first agenda item, "Nuclear test ban".