

(The Chairman)

Distinguished delegates, as regards the question of the prohibition and elimination of chemical weapons, the world expects concrete results from our Committee. I think that, as is shown by the outcome of our work at the last session, the conditions necessary for the achievement of agreement exist. As I see it, the important thing now is to proceed as rapidly as possible to agreement on the text of the basic provisions of a future convention, taking into account all the existing proposals and future initiatives.

CD/PV.189

22

(Mr. MacEachen, Canada)

The time is right for progress this year towards a treaty on the prohibition of the development, production and stockpiling of chemical weapons and the destruction of existing stocks. We intend to participate vigorously along with others in seeking to realize the maximum from the present opportunity.

Continuing Canadian research on defensive measures enables us to put forward suggestions on such aspects as the verification provisions of a treaty banning chemical weapons. Canada has contributed working papers. We have allocated funds to enable Canadian technical experts to participate here in Geneva for longer periods, beginning with the 1983 session. Expertise from many countries, including non-members, has been brought to bear in this Committee on the complex issues involved. The achievements of the Working Group on Chemical Weapons again illustrate that work in this body can complement bilateral negotiations.

I have focused on four important issues, four Canadian priorities for 1983, on which I wished to put Canada's position strongly:

Canada will press for progress toward the objective of a comprehensive nuclear test ban;

Canada will press for a more effective non-proliferation regime;

Canada will press for a convention to prohibit chemical weapons;

Canada will press for progress towards the objective of prohibiting all weapons for use in outer space.

These are issues where there are prospects for genuine progress and where progress can make a direct contribution to mutual security.