



FIRST COMMITTEE
41st meeting
held on
Thursday, 12 November 1987
at 10 a.m.
New York

VERBATIM RECORD OF THE 41st MEETING

Chairman: Mr. BAGBENI ADEITO NZENGEYA (Zaire)

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CONSIDERATION OF AND ACTION ON DRAFT RESOLUTIONS (continued)

* The asterisk (*) indicates that the text of the document is based on the original text of the document. The text of the document is based on the original text of the document. The text of the document is based on the original text of the document.

The meeting was called to order at 11.05 a.m.

AGENDA ITEMS 48 TO 69 (continued)

CONSIDERATION OF AND ACTION ON DRAFT RESOLUTIONS

The CHAIRMAN (interpretation from French): I now call on representatives who wish to introduce draft resolutions or make statements.

Mr. GARCIA ROBLES (Mexico) (interpretation from Spanish): Last Monday I had the honour to introduce, on behalf of all its sponsors, draft resolution A/C.1/42/L.50, relating to the World Disarmament Campaign.

Today I am especially happy to announce that as a result of a process of consultations with the authors of draft resolution A/C.1/42/L.23, entitled "World Disarmament Campaign: actions and activities", we have come to an agreement that a single draft should be submitted. Draft resolution A/C.1/42/L.50/Rev.1 therefore incorporates the valuable idea that appears in resolution A/C.1/42/L.23, namely, emphasis on the important role that the World Disarmament Campaign can play in ensuring a positive outcome of the third special session of the General Assembly devoted to disarmament.

That idea is reflected in the last preambular paragraph of draft resolution A/C.1/42/L.50/Rev.1, which spells out the purposes of the campaign, namely to inform, educate and generate public understanding of, and support for, the objectives of the United Nations in the field of arms limitation and disarmament; and in operative paragraph 8, in which the Secretary-General is requested, in carrying out the activities of the World Disarmament Campaign contemplated for 1988, to give particular attention to the third special session of the General Assembly devoted to disarmament.

The sponsors of draft resolution A/C.1/42/L.50/Rev.1 would wish it to be adopted without a vote.

Mr. von STULPNAGEL (Federal Republic of Germany): I should like at this time to announce the withdrawal of our draft resolution (A/C.1/42/L.39) entitled "Constructive review and implementation of the Final Document of the Tenth Special Session of the General Assembly". This has become inevitable now that we have exhausted the means at our disposal to reach a common position with the sponsors of draft resolutions A/C.1/42/L.70 and A/C.1/42/L.6).

As was said yesterday by the representative of Yugoslavia, Minister Djokic, when he introduced draft resolution A/C.1/42/L.70/Rev.1, the sponsors of the three draft resolutions all had the objective of addressing the question of the role of the Final Document in the light of the preparation of the third special session on disarmament. We and others have, in an attempt to submit a joint text, invested a great deal of time and effort. Although the outcome is inconclusive, we believe it was a worthy investment: areas of common ground have been identified as well as areas on which the differences have been narrowed; and, finally, it has become clear where basic differences continue to exist.

All this is an essential basis for further talks between parties involved and will, I am sure, be useful in the process of preparing for the third special session on disarmament.

Naturally, we all would have wished to be able to report to the Committee a different outcome of the efforts at merging the diverse texts. Since that is not the case, I should like to repeat why we thought it necessary to present draft resolution A/C.1/42/L.39.

First of all, we wanted to make a contribution to consensus-building, which is the working basis of the third special session on disarmament, because so far the positions of all Member States, including my own country, have not been reflected in a resolution on this matter. We formulated our text on the basis that we continue to consider the Final Document of the first special session on disarmament

(Mr. Stulpnagel, Federal
Republic of Germany)

to represent the most substantial and comprehensive consensus document of the international community in the field of arms control and disarmament.

We have also tried to have the text reflect that one cannot disregard the fact that in the course of nearly a decade since the adoption of the Final Document the results that have been achieved have not been sufficient. Central issues such as the appropriate approach to the world-wide prevention of all wars, the reduction of tensions and conflicts in many parts of the world and the excessive build-up of armaments, which is still continuing on a global scale, have remained controversial and there are no concrete prospects for an easy solution.

We would have liked to present our concern that the lack of consensus regarding the implementation of the Final Document has impeded the efforts by the United Nations to contribute more effectively to the process of disarmament and the maintenance of international peace and security. We wanted to plead, for example, for disarmament measures in fields where initial substantive results have been reached and further progress can be expected.

Those and other ideas could not be brought to fruition because some countries do not agree that new elements in the sphere of disarmament are shaping up.

Let me end on a note of hope that the preparatory process for the forthcoming third special session on disarmament will revert to the spirit of consensus that is the necessary pre-condition for the success of that special session. My delegation stands ready to continue its efforts to that end.

Mr. ROSE (German Democratic Republic): My delegation wishes to make a few remarks about draft resolutions in cluster 8, under agenda item 61.

Having engaged in a constructive dialogue, the sponsors succeeded this year in presenting a single draft resolution on a comprehensive ban on chemical weapons. That draft resolution is contained in document A/C.1/42/L.32/Rev.1. We attach

(Mr. Rose, German Democratic Republic)

particular importance to this fact, and I take this opportunity of expressing our appreciation in particular to the delegations of Poland, Canada and the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland for the fruitful consultations, directed towards precision, that were held.

In terms both of the contents of the draft resolution and of the way it materialized we view it as an acknowledgement of the productive work at the Conference on Disarmament in Geneva and of the contributions which many States made both within and outside the negotiating process at the Conference. That should serve as encouragement for further efforts and, at the same time, as a reason to refrain from anything that might place a strain on the ongoing negotiating process.

The draft resolution is evidence of the endeavour of the entire community of States to press on with the drawing up of the convention and to conclude this work as soon as possible. It also points to the increased opportunities for constructive co-operation among various States and to their readiness for dialogue and rapprochement of their positions in order to achieve tangible results that take account of the interests of all the parties concerned.

This positive development is so gratifying as to call for intensified co-operation in other disarmament areas as well and for maximum goodwill for mutual accommodation, for the sake of our cause, as we prepare for the third special session of the General Assembly devoted to disarmament.

It will now be essential that the Geneva Conference on Disarmament, taking advantage of the forthcoming consultations and the work of the Committee on chemical weapons next January, speed up and finish its work on the convention in the near future.

(Mr. Rose, German Democratic Republic)

The discussions in the First Committee have left no doubt about the international community's resolve to see chemical weapons banned from the arsenals of States forever, as one of its priority concerns.

The German Democratic Republic will continue to participate actively in the efforts to finalize the draft convention.

Mr. HALACHEV (Bulgaria): I wish to add a few words to what was said a few minutes ago by the representative of Mexico, Ambassador Garcia Robles.

My delegation, along with the other sponsors of draft resolution A/C.1/42/L.23, entitled "World Disarmament Campaign: actions and activities", wishes to express its satisfaction at the positive outcome of the consultations that made it possible to unite the efforts on the issue of the World Disarmament Campaign. At the very outset, we wish also to express our gratitude to all the delegations that have sponsored draft resolutions A/C.1/42/L.23 and A/C.1/42/L.50, and especially to the delegation of Mexico, for the spirit of co-operation they have displayed in this endeavour.

Bulgaria, like the other sponsors of draft resolution A/C.1/42/L.23, is fully committed to the purposes of the World Disarmament Campaign. For many years we have been submitting our draft resolutions on this subject, with the aim of contributing to the effective implementation of the Campaign. We are still convinced of the importance of the provisions contained in this draft resolution, especially the one to the effect that public support for the purposes of the United Nations in the field of disarmament generated by the Campaign should exert a positive influence on Governments in formulating their respective policies in order to achieve far-reaching agreements on disarmament, for the benefit of all countries and peoples.

(Mr. Halachev, Bulgaria)

In this respect the role of the World Disarmament Campaign and of world public opinion is of special significance in the light of the forthcoming third special session of the United Nations General Assembly devoted to disarmament. We are pleased to see that this idea, properly reflected, is in the new draft resolution A/C.1/42/L.50/Rev.1. We are also convinced that the formidable challenges mankind faces today require united approaches and actions toward peace and disarmament, including universal support for the objective of the World Disarmament Campaign.

Having all this in mind, the sponsors of draft resolution A/C.1/42/L.23 decided this year not to press their original draft to a vote, in order to ensure wider support for a single resolution on the World Disarmament Campaign. We expect this text to be also considered as still another practical response from our side to the appeals for a reduction of the number of resolutions in this Committee.

My delegation whole-heartedly joins the sponsors of draft resolution A/C.1/42/L.50/Rev.1. We appeal to all representatives to give their full support to it and to render every assistance to the World Disarmament Campaign, with a view to its effective implementation and the achievement of its goals.

The CHAIRMAN (interpretation from French): We have now concluded the list of speakers for this morning.

The First Committee will now continue the decision-making stage on the draft resolutions dealing with the disarmament items, the clusters which we announced yesterday. We shall begin, first of all, with cluster 10. There was one draft resolution which was outstanding, namely A/C.1/42/L.12/Rev.1. Then we shall take up clusters 11 and 13, and, if the consultations under way are successful, we can also take up cluster 8.

(The Chairman)

Before taking a decision on these draft resolutions, I shall call on those delegations which wish to make a statement other than an explanation of vote.

There appear to be no statements other than explanations of vote. Therefore, I should now like to ask members of the Committee to offer their explanations of vote before we proceed to the voting.

As no representatives wish to do so, we shall now take a decision on cluster 10.

It will be recalled that there was one draft resolution, A/C.1/42/L.12, now changed to A/C.1/42/L.12/Rev.1, which remained outstanding for consultations. This draft is now ready to be submitted for approval to the Committee. The draft resolution is under item 62 (c) of the agenda, entitled "General and complete disarmament" and subtitled "Conventional disarmament". The draft resolution was introduced by the representative of Denmark during the 35th meeting of the First Committee on 6 November 1987. The sponsors are Denmark and Zaire. The sponsors of this draft resolution on conventional disarmament hope that the First Committee will be able to adopt it without a vote.

There appears to be no objection.

Draft resolution A/C.1/42/L.12/Rev.1 was adopted without a vote.

The CHAIRMAN (interpretation from French): The Committee will now turn to cluster 11 of the draft resolutions. We have before us draft resolution A/C.1/42/L.22/Rev.1. Yesterday we were informed that the sponsors of draft resolution A/C.1/42/L.42 did not insist on having the resolution put to the vote; therefore, the Committee will no longer vote on that draft resolution. Lastly, the Committee has before it draft resolution A/C.1/42/L.48.

As for draft resolutions A/C.1/42/L.54 and L.66, the sponsors of those two draft resolutions are engaged now in consultations with the other members of the

(The Chairman)

Committee, and therefore we shall take a decision on those two draft resolutions somewhat later, when we have the results of those consultations.

I shall now call on those representatives who wish to explain their votes before the voting on these various draft resolutions.

Mr. von STULPNAGEL (Federal Republic of Germany): I am not speaking on an explanation of vote. I have asked to speak in order to announce an oral amendment to our draft resolution A/C.1/42/L.48/Rev.1, entitled "Consideration of guidelines for confidence-building measures". With the consent of the co-sponsors of the draft resolution, we have decided to react positively to the request received from a number of other delegations to provide for a short addition to the third preambular paragraph.

I would ask you, Mr. President, kindly to insert in the third preambular paragraph of resolution A/C.1/42/L.48/Rev.1, after the phrase "important instrument for the strengthening of international peace and security", the words "and for promoting and facilitating the attainment of disarmament measures". The amended third preambular paragraph would thus read:

"Noting with satisfaction that the concept of confidence-building as an important instrument for the strengthening of international peace and security and for promoting and facilitating the attainment of disarmament measures meets with growing acceptance among States,".

The rationale behind this addition was to render the third preambular paragraph more consistent with the agreed phraseology used in paragraphs 1, 2 and 3 of the draft guidelines contained in annex 2 of document A/41/42.

The CHAIRMAN (interpretation from French): If there are no further statements in explanation of vote before the voting on cluster 11, I take it that the Committee is ready to take action on the first draft resolution, A/C.1/42/L.22/Rev.1, under agenda item 62 (b), "General and complete disarmament: objective information on military matters". This draft was introduced by the representative of the United Kingdom at the 35th meeting of the First Committee, on 6 November 1987. It is sponsored by the following countries: Australia, Belgium, Botswana, Bulgaria, Canada, Czechoslovakia, Denmark, France, the German Democratic Republic, the Federal Republic of Germany, Greece, Iceland, Italy, Japan, Netherlands, New Zealand, Norway, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Samoa, Spain, Swaziland, Turkey, the USSR, the United Kingdom and the United States. The sponsors of this draft resolution, in view of the intensive consultations that were held, believe that it should be adopted without a vote. Is there any objection?

Mr. RATH (India): My delegation has asked for a recorded vote on draft resolution A/C.1/42/L.22/Rev.1.

The CHAIRMAN (interpretation from French): The sponsors had proposed that the draft be adopted without a vote, but the representative of India has now asked that a recorded vote be taken. Therefore a recorded vote will be taken on draft resolution A/C.1/42/L.22/Rev.1.

A recorded vote was taken.

In favour: Afghanistan, Argentina, Australia, Austria, Bahamas, Bahrain, Bangladesh, Barbados, Belgium, Benin, Bhutan, Bolivia, Botswana, Brunei Darussalam, Bulgaria, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Byelorussian Soviet Socialist Republic, Cameroon, Canada, Central African Republic, Chile, Colombia, Congo, Costa Rica, Côte d'Ivoire, Cyprus, Czechoslovakia, Democratic Kampuchea, Denmark, Djibouti, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Finland, France, Gabon, German Democratic Republic, Germany, Federal Republic of, Ghana, Greece, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Honduras, Hungary, Iceland, Indonesia, Ireland, Israel, Italy, Japan, Kenya, Lesotho, Liberia, Luxembourg, Madagascar, Malawi, Malaysia, Maldives, Mali, Malta,

Mexico, Mongolia, Nepal, Netherlands, New Zealand, Nigeria, Norway, Pakistan, Panama, Peru, Philippines, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Samoa, Saudi Arabia, Senegal, Singapore, Somalia, Spain, Sri Lanka, Swaziland, Sweden, Thailand, Togo, Trinidad and Tobago, Turkey, Uganda, Union of Soviet Socialist Republics, United Arab Emirates, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United Republic of Tanzania, United States of America, Uruguay, Venezuela, Viet Nam, Yemen, Yugoslavia, Zaire, Zimbabwe

Against: None

Abstaining: Algeria, Brazil, Burma, Cuba, Egypt, India, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Iraq, Kuwait, Nicaragua, Sudan, Zambia

Draft resolution A/C.1/42/L.22/Rev.1 was adopted by 100 votes to none, with 12 abstentions.*

The CHAIRMAN (interpretation from French): In accordance with the desire of its sponsors, draft resolution A/C.1/42/L.42 will not be put to a vote.

The Committee will now take a decision on draft resolution A/C.1/42/L.48/Rev.1, under agenda item 63, "Review and implementation of the Concluding Document of the Twelfth Special Session of the General Assembly". This draft resolution, entitled "Consideration of guidelines for confidence-building measures", was introduced by the Federal Republic of Germany at the 39th meeting of the First Committee, on 10 November 1987. It is sponsored by the following countries: the Byelorussian Soviet Socialist Republic, Cameroon, Canada, Costa Rica, the Federal Republic of Germany, Greece, Hungary, Poland and Sweden. The draft resolution was orally amended a short time ago by the representative of the Federal Republic of Germany. Its sponsors would like it to be adopted without a vote. If there is no objection, I shall take it the the Committee adopts draft resolution A/C.1/42/L.48/Rev.1, as orally amended by the Federal Republic of Germany.

The draft resolution, as amended, was adopted.

*Subsequently the delegation of the Ukrainian Soviet Socialist Republic advised the Secretariat that it had intended to vote in favour.

The CHAIRMAN (interpretation from French): As I have already announced, draft resolutions A/C.1/42/L.54 and L.66 in cluster 11 are still the subject of consultations. We appeal to the sponsors of those two draft resolutions to speed up the consultations so that they can inform us of the results and we may take a decision.

We were about to take a decision on clusters 13 and 11, but there have been requests from a number of delegations to continue consultations on those two clusters, with which some delegations still have some difficulty.

Since the Chair would like to carry out quick consultations with those delegations that wish to defer consideration of certain clusters or resolutions contained in certain clusters, and as we still have almost an hour and a quarter to work, we may take advantage of that time and suspend the meeting.

The meeting was suspended at 11.45 a.m. and resumed at 12.20 p.m.

The CHAIRMAN (interpretation from French): We turn now to the draft resolutions in cluster 8: A/C.1/42/L.32/Rev.1, L.34, L.41, L.67/Rev.1 and L.71. I call first on the Secretary of the Committee.

Mr. KHERADI (Secretary of the Committee): I should like to make a statement on behalf of the Secretary-General concerning draft resolution A/C.1/42/L.41, entitled "Second Review Conference of the Parties to the Convention on the Prohibition of the Development, Production and Stockpiling of Bacteriological (Biological) and Toxin Weapons and on Their Destruction".

By the terms of operative paragraph 4 of that draft resolution, the General Assembly would request the Secretary-General to render the necessary assistance and to provide such services as may be required for the implementation of the relevant parts of the Final Declaration of the Second Review Conference. The wording of operative paragraph 4 is virtually identical to that of paragraph 2 of resolution 41/58 A, adopted by the General Assembly at its forty-first session, on 3 December 1986. Consequently, it should be reiterated that, as stated in the note by the Secretariat circulated at the forty-first session,

"The Secretary-General considers that, if the draft resolution is adopted by the General Assembly, he would be required to render technical services and assistance to States parties to the Convention with a view to enabling them to implement relevant parts of the Final Declaration of the Review Conference, it being understood that such services and assistance would have no financial implications for the regular budget of the United Nations and that all related costs would be met by the States parties to the Convention in accordance with the rules of procedure adopted by the Second Review Conference". (A/C.1/41/9, para. 2)

The CHAIRMAN (interpretation from French): I see that no delegation wishes to explain its position on the draft resolutions in cluster 8 before the Committee takes action on those draft resolutions. We therefore turn to draft resolution A/C.1/42/L.32/Rev.1, submitted under agenda item 61, entitled "Chemical and bacteriological (biological) weapons". The draft resolution was introduced by the representative of Canada at the 34th meeting of the First Committee, held on 6 November 1987, and it is sponsored by Argentina, Australia, Belgium, Bulgaria, Canada, Denmark, Finland, the German Democratic Republic, the Federal Republic of Germany, Greece, Indonesia, Ireland, Italy, Japan, Kenya, Mongolia, the Netherlands, Norway, Poland, Portugal, Spain, Sweden, the Ukrainian Soviet Socialist Republic, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, Uruguay and Viet Nam. The sponsors have requested that the First Committee adopt the draft resolution without a vote.

Draft resolution A/C.1/42/L.32/Rev.1 was adopted.

The CHAIRMAN (interpretation from French): Draft resolution A/C.1/42/L.34, entitled "Chemical weapons", has been withdrawn by its sponsor.

The Committee will therefore turn now to draft resolution A/C.1/42/L.41, entitled "Second Review Conference of the Parties to the Convention on the Prohibition of the Development, Production and Stockpiling of Bacteriological (Biological) and Toxin Weapons and on Their Destruction", which was also submitted under agenda item 61, entitled "Chemical and bacteriological (biological) weapons". The Secretary of the Committee has spoken with respect to the financial implications of the draft resolution. Draft resolution A/C.1/42/L.41, introduced by the representative of Austria at the 35th meeting of the First Committee, held on 6 November 1987, is sponsored by the following delegations: Argentina, Australia, Austria, Belgium, Bolivia, Bulgaria, the Byelorussian Soviet Socialist

(The Chairman)

Republic, Canada, Chile, Czechoslovakia, Denmark, Finland, France, the German Democratic Republic, the Federal Republic of Germany, Greece, Guyana, Hungary, the Islamic Republic of Iran, Ireland, Italy, Japan, Liberia, Mongolia, the Netherlands, New Zealand, Norway, Pakistan, Poland, Romania, Spain, Sweden, the Ukrainian Soviet Socialist Republic, the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, the United States of America and Zaire.

The sponsors have requested that the First Committee adopt the draft resolution without a vote.

Draft resolution A/C.1/42/L.41 was adopted.

The CHAIRMAN (interpretation from French): The Committee will now take a decision on draft resolution A/C.1/42/L.67/Rev.1, also submitted under agenda item 61, entitled "Chemical and bacteriological (biological) weapons". This draft resolution was introduced by the representative of Australia at the 37th meeting of the First Committee, on 9 November 1987. The draft resolution is entitled "Measures to uphold the authority of the 1925 Geneva Protocol and to support the conclusion of a chemical weapons convention". The programme budget implications of this draft resolution are to be found in document A/C.1/42/L.85. The sponsors of the draft resolution are as follows: Australia, Austria, Belgium, Bulgaria, Canada, Colombia, Costa Rica, Côte d'Ivoire, Denmark, France, the German Democratic Republic, the Federal Republic of Germany, Greece, Iceland, Italy, Japan, Kenya, the Netherlands, New Zealand, Norway, the Philippines, Portugal, Rwanda, Spain, Sweden, Thailand, the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, the United States of America, Uruguay and Zaire.

The sponsors would like the draft resolution to be adopted by the Committee without a vote. May I take it that the Committee wishes to adopt the draft resolution without a vote? I see no objection.

Draft resolution A/C.1/42/L.67/Rev.1 was adopted.

The CHAIRMAN (interpretation from French): Representatives may remember that the sponsors of draft resolution A/C.1/42/L.71, in cluster 8, did not think it necessary to have that draft resolution put to the vote in the Committee.

I shall now call on those representatives who wish to explain their votes or position on the decisions taken on the various draft resolutions in cluster 8.

Mr. HU Xiaodi (China) (interpretation from Chinese): The Chinese delegation has just participated in the consensus on draft resolution A/C.1/42/L.67/Rev.1. The Chinese delegation has consistently advocated an

(Mr. Hu Xiaodi, China)

international convention on the prohibition of chemical weapons and we have made a positive contribution to the negotiations on it.

Before the conclusion of such a treaty, however, we are in favour of strengthening the system of the prohibition of chemical weapons contained in the 1925 Geneva Protocol, including the adoption of the necessary measures to conduct an investigation into the possible use of chemical weapons. Therefore the Chinese delegation is happy to see that three draft resolutions on the prohibition of the use of chemical weapons have been merged into one draft resolution, A/C.1/42/L.67/Rev.1, which has enjoyed a consensus.

With regard to the need to curb the spread of chemical weapons, as mentioned in the draft resolution, China is against their spread. However, we are of the view that the convention should have as a matter of priority the solution of the issue of the destruction of existing weapons and their production facilities and a guarantee that no new chemical weapons will be produced, instead of merely a limiting of their spread.

The purpose of draft resolution A/C.1/42/L.67/Rev.1 is to promote and strengthen the work of the Secretary-General in an investigation of the use of chemical weapons. The Chinese delegation shares that purpose. However, it believes that the investigation conducted by the Secretary-General should be a transitional method before the entering into force of the verification measures of the convention. It cannot be construed as prejudging the scheme of verification or investigation as envisaged in a future convention.

Mr. MASHHADI-GHAHVEHCHI (Islamic Republic of Iran): With the adoption of draft resolution A/C.1/42/L.67/Rev.1 by consensus some minutes ago, an important step has been taken pending realization of the convention banning the production, development and stockpiling of chemical weapons in Geneva. Allow me to express my

(Mr. Mashhadi-Ghahvehchi,
Islamic Republic of Iran)

pleasure at the adoption of this draft resolution and at the determination of the international community to prevent the use of these weapons. At the same time we must admit that for three years there has been a procrastination on such measures, and during that time my country has been subjected to the use of chemical weapons.

As representatives will be aware my delegation would be very pleased to be one of the sponsors of draft resolution A/C.1/42/L.67/Rev.1. However, we were informed that our co-sponsorship would have jeopardized the consensus on the draft resolution, simply because one member State would otherwise have blocked the consensus.

(Mr. Mashhadi-Ghahvehchi,
Islamic Republic of Iran)

Fortunately, that consensus has now been achieved. To save it, my delegation reluctantly decided to withdraw its sponsorship. We deeply regret that even though we have been the historic victim of chemical weapons, we are prevented from making any positive contribution to the formulation of such international instruments. Lastly, I should like once again to express my delegation's thanks and appreciation to all delegations, particularly those of Sweden and Australia, for bringing such an important commitment to fruition.

Mr. NAZARKIN (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) (interpretation from Russian): In connection with the adoption of draft resolutions under agenda item 61 on chemical and bacteriological weapons, we would like to express our satisfaction that this year it was possible to agree upon and adopt by consensus a single draft resolution whose objective is to promote the successful conclusion of negotiations on an international convention to ban chemical weapons - A/C.1/42/L.32/Rev.1. That result was made possible by the energetic efforts of many delegations which demonstrated a sincere desire to resolve complex questions in a spirit of good will and co-operation. I should like, inter alia, to note the great personal contribution made to those efforts by the Chairman of the Special Committee on Chemical Weapons, Ambassador Ekeus of Sweden. We are fully aware of the complexities of the work still remaining to be done at Geneva. However, we believe that the unanimity and the spirit of co-operation evident this year at the General Assembly are the best stimulus for the Conference on Disarmament to reach agreement on a convention on the total prohibition and destruction of chemical weapons. All this attests to the international community's awareness of the fact that the negotiations to ban chemical weapons have entered their most responsible and decisive stage. This gives reason to hope for their successful and speedy conclusion.

(Mr. Nazarkin, USSR)

The Soviet delegation also supported draft resolution A/C.1/42/L.67/Rev.1, adopted by consensus. It is regrettable that the efforts to combine the two draft resolutions have so far not yielded positive results. The Soviet delegation believes that the efforts to combine the two draft resolutions adopted by consensus should be continued before their adoption at the plenary meeting. Approval of a single consensus resolution on all aspects of the problem of a ban on chemical weapons would give even greater weight to the provisions contained therein and would promote further progress towards implementation.

Mr. RATH (India): My delegation joins those who have spoken before in expressing appreciation at the adoption of draft resolution A/C.1/42/L.67/Rev.1 by consensus. We hope that this will now mean the speedy and successful conclusion of negotiations on a convention on chemical weapons.

The CHAIRMAN (interpretation from French): This afternoon we shall continue with cluster 9. Since the sponsor of draft resolution A/C.1/42/L.23 does not insist on putting it to the vote, the Committee will not have to take a decision on that draft resolution. The sponsors of L.30 are ready to put it to the vote, and we could also look at L.50/Rev.1. As regards L.55/Corr.1, plus the amendment in L.81, consultations are still going on. We shall therefore deal this afternoon only with L.30 and L.50/Rev.1. Later, we could look at cluster 13, which includes draft resolutions L.16, L.61/Rev.1 and L.69. The sponsors of those drafts are ready to put them to the vote this afternoon. After cluster 13, we could come back to cluster 14, where some drafts have been left in abeyance pending consultations. We could take a decision on L.60/Rev.1, with another amendment to that resolution in L.82, and on L.70. We could then take a decision on L.70/Rev.1 and, if circumstances permit, on L.75/Rev.2.

The meeting rose at 12.50 p.m.