

(Mr. Loeis, Indonesia)

... Let me now turn to the chemical weapons issue, which has become the main preoccupation of the Conference to date. In his statement of 15 February 1990, Ambassador Ledogar of the United States, inter alia, introduced the United States-USSR joint statement and echoed the reaffirmation of President Bush's strong commitment to progress on the multilateral negotiations in order to conclude a chemical weapons convention soon. It is within this context that I would like to note with satisfaction the content of the joint statement and support the strong commitment made by the two super-Powers to multilateral negotiations to ban chemical weapons. Without their commitment, the Conference on Disarmament is unlikely to achieve progress on this particular item of our agenda.

I do not hesitate, therefore, to make use of this opportunity to appeal to all parties, and especially the super-Powers, to fully commit themselves to speed up the negotiations in the Conference on Disarmament on matters in which they have a particular interest, as well as on questions which concern almost all States participating in the negotiations. As they commit themselves to do so in the prohibition of chemical weapons, it is only just and fair to request them also to embark upon multilateral negotiations on those issues I mentioned earlier.

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