

(Mr. Sirjani, Islamic Republic of Iran)

In expressing our view on the question of the Iraqi regime's request, I would like to remind the Conference of the very controversial nature of that request, by calling attention to the following facts of direct relevance to the issue under consideration.

Firstly, the Iraqi regime has been proved, by the recent report of the Secretary-General's expert team, to be in gross violation of the 1925 Geneva Protocol banning the use of chemical weapons in war, although being a signatory to this Protocol; but what is even more to be condemned is the fact that within the short period of nearly two months from the date of dispatch of the expert team to Iran on 13 March 1984 up to 29 May 1984, the Iraqi regime has made use of chemical weapons 23 times.

Secondly, the Iraqi regime has failed to respond to the Secretary-General's purely humanitarian request not to use chemical weapons, (Security Council document S/16663, dated 29 June 1984), in spite of the fact that the President of the Islamic Republic of Iran commended the appeal and immediately forwarded his positive response. A much more serious indication of the Iraqi regime's failure to respond to the Secretary-General's appeal is the horrifying conclusion that the Iraqi regime intends to make further use of chemical weapons in the future. It is obvious that such blunt manifestations of intentions to violate international law and codes of conduct is significantly more detrimental to the fate of international peace and security than low-profile, clandestine violations of those principles.

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Therefore, Mr. President, in view of the unprecedented notions that we have experienced and learned about the irresponsibility and unreliability manifested by the Iraqi regime, out of respect for international law, my delegation, in accordance with the international obligations and undertakings of the Islamic Republic of Iran, and out of respect for the values and principles vital to the interest of all nations, is bound to strongly reject the highly hypocritical request of the Iraqi regime.