

(Mr. Jaroszek, Poland)

of the new strength which the United Nations system has gained, particularly in the sphere of consolidating peace and international security. Being composed of the representatives of all groups of States, the Conference is best prepared to meet the concerns of the entire world community within a negotiating process in which multilateral, regional and bilateral disarmament endeavours must be complementary. This means that each level of negotiations, this body included, should produce concrete agreements. Indeed, there are problems for which durable solutions are conceivable only in a global framework. This is particularly true of future agreements calling for a global verification network, or agreements which seek to ban weapons that could be obtained by a considerable number of States. Chemical weapons certainly belong to this latter category.

My delegation is very pleased to join the delegations which have already paid tribute to the Paris Conference on the prohibition of chemical weapons. The unanimous condemnation of the use of chemical weapons and the reaffirmation of commitment to the 1925 Geneva Protocol should facilitate preventing the proliferation of those abhorrent means of warfare. However, it has been Poland's firm view all along that the only effective way to exclude any possibility of chemical weapons use is to conclude a comprehensive convention on the elimination of these weapons at the earliest possible date. Therefore, a final say concerning the lasting validity of the Paris Conference belongs to the body which you, Sir, are presiding over. For it is here, at the Conference on Disarmament, that the universal appeal for a convention must be transformed into international legal obligations. I am sure that this Conference is able to live up to the expectations of the world public, to match the courage and wisdom demonstrated in Paris, provided sufficient political will is mustered by all concerned.

Regrettably, my delegation feels obliged to say that to date we have failed to see the Paris appeal properly reflected in the pace of the negotiations in Geneva. Moreover, the efforts to expand the mandate of the Ad hoc Committee on Chemical Weapons so as to include the final drafting of a convention - which were logical following the Paris Declaration and the relevant resolution of the United Nations General Assembly - have failed. Time is not our ally in work on the complete elimination of chemical weapons. Recent years have demonstrated painfully enough how disastrous chemical warfare can be. Mankind has every right to aspire to be free of these weapons as soon as possible. The important provisions of a future convention already agreed are certainly most appreciated. Now the Ad hoc Committee should concentrate on a few important remaining questions: verification, future organization, undiminished security during the transition period, destruction of stocks and effective monitoring of non-production. We do not try to underestimate existing difficulties, but we still believe that a convention could be completed this year. To achieve this goal the injection of political will into negotiations is indispensable. If all Governments were ready to translate their declarations into politico-legal facts, then a convention would really be within reach.

We agree with these delegations which have advocated more result-oriented work by the Ad hoc Committee. Some progress was made in this direction last year. But further efforts are needed. My delegation supports the