

Mr. JACOBI (Switzerland) (translated from French):

... It is a privilege and honour for me to address this multilateral disarmament forum. Although our status as non-member of the Conference necessarily restricts our role, we have endeavoured to take up the opportunities to make a contribution repeatedly made available to observer States in recent years. This, together with the strengthening of our delegation, has enabled us to make a concrete contribution to the work and better follow the demanding and technically highly complex negotiations on a total ban on chemical weapons, as well as the work of the Group of Experts on detection and identification of seismic events. We have also sought to co-operate with other observer States in the Conference, and thus in recent months have been able to make a contribution, though a modest one, to the Finnish draft on verification of chemical weapons. We are resolved to step up this co-operation and to have closer contacts.

It is the hope of Switzerland that the Paris Conference on the prohibition of chemical weapons will have led all countries totally to renounce the use of these weapons against civilians and military personnel. The 149 countries which met at Paris unanimously recognized "the necessity of concluding, at an early date, a convention on the" total and comprehensive prohibition of chemical weapons and called on the Conference on Disarmament "to redouble its efforts" to that end. Hence this convention should be concluded as soon as possible. It is true that attaining this objective is no simple matter given the technical and political complexity of the problem. Although we are aware of the long road that still has to be covered, we welcome the fact that the negotiations have been stepped up this year. And we should like to pay tribute to the Chairman of the Ad hoc Committee on Chemical Weapons, Ambassador Morel and his delegation for their untiring efforts, energy and personal dedication to see that the work goes forward.

Switzerland rejects chemical weapons in every form and manifestation and condemns any use of them. That is why we are highly concerned at the fact that they are proliferating. This is not only a growing threat to international security and stability but might also seriously hamper the work being done here in Geneva, by calling its value and timeliness into question. This danger led the Federal Council and the Swiss chemical industry to place export controls on products associated with the manufacture of chemical weapons and to study the possibility of applying the same controls to chemical plants and some equipment that can potentially be used to manufacture such weapons. But these unilateral and temporary measures do not lead to the elimination of the CW arsenals that are still in existence, nor can they give

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