

(The President)

It is in this light that I see the priorities of our work. I think it will be exceptionally important that this year we wind up our work on the convention on the prohibition of chemical weapons successfully. Nobody needs convincing that the initiatives for the control and non-proliferation of weapons of mass destruction, chemical and nuclear in particular, are of top priority.

... It is certain that there exists a political will to bring to a close the negotiations on the convention on the prohibition of chemical weapons, but in order to stay to the point we have to make sure that the convention is of equal interest to all members of the Conference and the United Nations as a whole. In this regard we shall require much patience and wisdom, to review and respect the interests of others and adopt realistic solutions.

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(Mr. Komatina, Secretariat)

... "The Conference is on the threshold of a major achievement of multilateral diplomacy, as it has now entered the final stage of the elaboration of a convention on chemical weapons. I am confident that the future chemical weapons convention will constitute a far-reaching security arrangement for effectively eliminating a barbaric and indiscriminate means of warfare, and act as a barrier to its possible future resurgence. I welcome the intensification of the negotiations on this issue and strongly urge the Conference to maintain the momentum and exert its utmost effort to achieve the goal it has set out for itself this year - a final agreement during the 1992 session.

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(Mr. de Rivero, Peru)

This is the first time in the history of disarmament that a populated geographical area of the planet has become a zone free of all weapons of mass destruction. At the same time, through the Declaration - it is important to emphasize to this Conference - the Andean countries, in the same Declaration, also expressed their determination to become unconditional original signatories of the convention on the prohibition and destruction of chemical weapons. The Cartagena Declaration is the culmination of a combined effort, but it is also the start of a gradual process to regulate the acquisition and transfer of advanced weaponry and related technology and prevent the strategic destabilization of Latin America and the Caribbean.