

(Mr. Ledogar, United States)

These are drastic steps. At a time when we are trying to negotiate an important global treaty, however, I believe they are absolutely essential. By consensus we set a deadline for ourselves of achieving a CW convention by 1992. We enshrined this goal in a revised mandate for the CW Ad Hoc Committee. Yet we are letting "business as usual" entangle us in sterile report-writing debates reminiscent of a time gone by.

Thus, I hereby request that the problematic committee contributions of this year be compressed and limited to each group's views and that the issue of CD report-writing be placed on the agenda of next year's open-ended consultations on improved and effective functioning. We must provide for a much briefer, cheaper and more useful report, which people might actually read. The current product meets almost none of these criteria.

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(Miss Solesby, United Kingdom)

The Western Group of States have worked for many years to advance progress in the fields of non-proliferation and disarmament on a regional and global basis. The Gulf crisis demonstrated that the proliferation of nuclear, chemical, and biological weapons and of systems capable of delivering them, as well as excessive build-up of conventional arms, undermine international security and increase the risk of armed conflict throughout the world. To meet this challenge, we have renewed our commitment to the earliest possible achievement of advances in the international forums dealing with specific proliferation issues.

As for the essential problem of verification, which continues to be the subject of debate, we believe that the best system of verification which can be devised cannot be perfect, and hence verification and compliance of the context within which the system agreed is to be applied must guide our deliberations in the matter. It will be necessary to strike an appropriate balance between what is required for a reliable and effective system and what can be viable without imposing a financial burden which is unnecessary, costly and may even discourage universal adherence to the convention.