

(Ms. Hernes, Norway)

initiative taken by Australia to convene an international conference in 1989 to discuss the growing problem of international trade in chemicals, plant and equipment which can be used for chemical weapons purposes.

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(Mr. Jaroszek, Poland)

... I must also mention the Paris Conference of States Parties to the 1925 Geneva Protocol for the Prohibition of the Use in War of Asphyxiating, Poisonous or Other Gases, and of Bacteriological Methods of Warfare, and Other Interested States, a conference which has made a remarkable contribution to strengthening the positive tendencies in the international situation. The Conference clearly and forcefully denounced chemical weapons.

The improved political environment also affected the proceedings of the First Committee during the forty-third session of the United Nations General Assembly. There was a greater willingness on the part of States to meet each other's positions, and some genuine efforts were made towards mutual accommodation. I venture to say that a forward-looking approach prevailed throughout the session, indicating prospects for further progress in disarmament. Not without significance has been the role of multilateralism reasserting itself in the field of disarmament, especially the role of the United Nations. All that must be seen as promising for further progress in the process of disarmament. This Conference must prove able and willing to live up to the expectations of the international community. The only way to do so is both very simple and very difficult at the same time: to produce new disarmament instruments.

Poland has always attached great significance to multilateral disarmament measures and to the performance of multilateral disarmament forums. As someone who has been associated with that area for more than two decades, I am in a position to evaluate the development of the state of affairs in this field. Today, notwithstanding our initiatives focusing on Europe, our commitment to the Conference on Disarmament is bigger than ever. This is because of the role which the Conference is destined to play, no matter how deeply one may regret the modest results which the Conference can show for the past decade or so.

The Conference, which was designated by the first special session of the United Nations General Assembly devoted to disarmament as the single multilateral disarmament negotiating body of global scope, must take advantage