

(Mr. Ledogar, United States)

In addition to passing out this statement to you today, my Soviet colleague and I will shortly be circulating this paper as a formal CD document through the auspices of the secretariat.

The PRESIDENT: In connection with the decision just taken, I wish to state the following:

As is well known, the Conference on Disarmament is a specialist body. It is the unique global multilateral disarmament negotiating forum. There is a tradition among CD members of concentrating in their discussions very much on the disarmament issues at hand. This has been the general practice as well for the non-members invited to participate. Many non-members have made contributions of outstanding practical value to our disarmament work. I trust - and am confident - that those non-members who we have just invited will make a constructive contribution to the negotiations and, as the case might be, pre-negotiations on the disarmament issues they have chosen. It is understood that, in accordance with the rules of procedure and the practice of the Conference, invitations extended to non-members are for the 1990 session. It goes without saying that any action from which our negotiations would not benefit would be most inappropriate. In fact, the participation of States non-members of the Conference should contribute to the universality of disarmament agreements.

Our negotiations on a convention banning chemical weapons have shown encouraging progress. This is all the more timely since we have witnessed in the recent past how much suffering chemical weapons may cause. May I therefore remind all delegations, those of member States as well as those of States wishing to accede to the status of participating non-members, that all States participating in the Paris Conference on the prohibition of chemical

(The President)

weapons made the following call in its Final Declaration: "In addition, in order to achieve as soon as possible the indispensable universal character of the convention, they call upon all States to become parties thereto as soon as it is concluded." In this context I note that all 30 States non-members that have addressed communications to us have indicated their wish to participate in our negotiations on chemical weapons.