

(Mr. Romero, Chile)

mandatory, equitable and non-discriminatory verification machinery, should be sufficiently explicit about the point that the inspections necessary to prevent chemical weapons production should not constitute any obstacle to the development of the chemical industry for peaceful purposes or a pretext for action having other ends. Inspection must, moreover, be harmoniously combined with State sovereignty.

Similarly, it should be laid down that States that use chemicals, even for purposes not prohibited by the convention, will be subject to a régime of strict liability, whether the harm that may be caused is direct, indirect or delayed. There should also be rules to cover the problem of transboundary pollution which, in the event that it occurs, should be subject to the principle that national territory cannot be used to the detriment of third States. Finally, consideration should be given to aspects such as the commitment of all parties to destroy the chemical weapons in their possession or under their control and the establishment of a more precise framework for the use of chemicals in the maintenance of public order within each State. This concept must be more clearly defined in order not to leave the door open for the use of certain substances which, while not lethal, can have extremely injurious consequences for people's health. It is urgent to redouble the efforts to reach definitive agreements in this sphere as soon as possible.

The PRESIDENT (translated from French): The 522nd plenary meeting of the Conference on Disarmament is called to order.

My country has always attached special importance to disarmament. Today this importance is reflected in an initiative taken by His Majesty King Hassan II, who wished to mark Morocco's assumption of the presidency of this Conference formally by addressing a message to it. Consequently, I have the great honour to read it to you:

(continued in Arabic)

... "Quite apart from the fact that the volume of weaponry in the world has today reached a level which makes it impossible for any belligerent to gain a clear victory over his opponent, the devastation that would result from the use of the stockpiled weapons, and particularly nuclear, chemical and radiological weapons of mass destruction, places us under an obligation to avert the danger of extinction of the human race.