

The PRESIDENT: I declare open the 487th plenary meeting of the Conference on Disarmament.

... As announced at our 485th plenary meeting, when we reach the end of the list of speakers, I intend to put before the Conference, for adoption, the report of the Ad hoc Committee on Chemical Weapons contained in document CD/881. I am also glad to inform you that agreement has been reached at informal consultations on the mandate and chairmanship of the Ad hoc Committee on Chemical Weapons. We shall also deal with requests from non-members to participate in the work of the Ad hoc Committee. I shall put those questions before the Conference at an informal meeting once our list of speakers is exhausted. Immediately afterwards we shall resume the plenary to formalize those decisions.

(Mr. von Stülpnagel, Federal Republic of Germany)

... This situation is growing increasingly untenable. Consequently, my delegation suggest that the Conference may wish to reassess, in a pragmatic manner, the priorities for its deliberations in this year's session. We might ponder the possibility of developing consensus on what I would call a temporarily selected concentration on those subjects of the agenda the urgency of which is undisputed, and for which the prospect for consensus solutions is well founded.

Nobody would belittle the terrible consequences of a nuclear exchange or of an intensive conventional conflict. Nobody will deny the Conference the right to study in depth the issues which relate to such events, including possible security guarantees for non-nuclear-weapon countries or the eventual insertion of efforts in this direction into a comprehensive disarmament programme. It may be, however, that such issues are not immediately amenable to constructive resolution here in the CD. Indeed, dissenting views in these areas appear to be at the forefront. Moreover, there are other urgent subjects on our agenda with a higher degree of commonality, and which seem closer to a consensus solution. One of the subjects which come immediately into mind is chemical weapons.