

(Mr. Larijani, Islamic Republic of Iran)

Nobody should expect a criminal government, a defeated aggressor which recognizes no boundaries to its action, to abide by any law or regulation. But are we justified in leaving the future of our lives to the whims and wishes of such criminals?

I hope I have been able to demonstrate the urgency of the matter, and why we should act right now, for tomorrow is too late. We should embark on some serious concrete and practical ways to deal with such insanity and criminal conduct. Firstly, we should try to strengthen the Geneva Protocol of 1925, for example through reaffirmation of commitment to the Protocol by the signatory States. Secondly, any and all international responses to any violation of the Protocol should be concrete, strong and prompt. Thirdly, all possible ways and means should be utilized to exert pressure on the violator in order to prevent the repetition of such crimes. This should include, among other things, the imposition of a total arms embargo and a variety of sanctions, as well as suspension of its membership in the United Nations and other international organizations. We are sure that in the present case, if these ideas are materialized and implemented, the aggressor régime of Iraq will definitely be prevented from continuing further use of chemical weapons.

It simply does not make sense that countries crying for humanity, peace and stability are generously arming, assisting and politically supporting such a criminal régime, regardless of its violation of international law and continuation of such shameless crimes. No political ambition can justify this ignorance! Any assistance to the violator with the knowledge of its continuous violations is in itself a crime and constitutes participation in the crime.

Finally, it is our earnest hope that this session of the Conference on Disarmament will produce the necessary machinery and needed modalities for strengthening the ban on the use of chemical weapons, effective implementation of international law and regulations in this field, and safeguarding peace, stability and the future of mankind. Considering the tangible and substantial progress made in the course of the past year in the preparation of the convention on chemical weapons, while hoping that it will be finalized at the earliest possible time, I would like to extend our gratitude and appreciation to Ambassador Ekéus, Chairman of the Ad hoc Committee on Chemical Weapons, and his colleagues in the working groups.