

(Mr. Jeszenszky, Hungary)

The future multilateral legal instrument should be equitable in terms of rights and obligations of States parties. In the context of the convention, this entails an unconditional rejection of the use of chemical weapons connected to the obligation to destroy existing chemical weapon stockpiles totally.

I would like at this forum to reiterate once again our commitment to the total prohibition of chemical weapons. Hungary is among the States that have declared their intention to become original parties to the chemical weapons convention. My country declared in 1989 its intention to be in full conformity with the main provisions of the convention still being negotiated. In February 1990, as a measure of openness, we provided detailed data on the activities of our chemical industry as required by the draft provisions of the convention. I am pleased to announce that in document CD/1061 we are repeating this declaration and putting forward all the information required under the future convention. We are convinced that this step will contribute to the cause of negotiations, and we would welcome similar confidence-building measures on the part of other negotiating parties as well.

In my understanding current negotiating efforts are aimed at preparing possible solutions for a number of outstanding political issues related to the future chemical weapons convention. This set of solutions in turn could be formalized by the foreign ministers of States represented in the Conference on Disarmament, with the aim of giving a final push towards the successful conclusion of negotiations. I personally would be pleased to come back to the Conference for a ministerial meeting and share the common satisfaction of contributing to the efforts aimed at finalizing the draft convention.

In considering ways and means to preserve the vitality of the Conference on Disarmament, we could perhaps ponder what other issues are to be taken up after the successful termination of negotiations on chemical weapons. It might be deemed timely to initiate informal contacts amongst members of the Conference to probe different ideas. These informal contacts could and should, in due time, lead to wide agreement on relevant and politically feasible measures, however partial they might initially be.

The ideas presented in my statement are not an endeavour to pre-empt too precipitately such a process, but an effort to promote its timely launching. These ideas are not in the least intended to undermine the very important substantive work currently being conducted in the framework of the Conference on Disarmament. Rather, they are meant to highlight the need to preserve the authority of this body by enabling it to face new challenges and helping it to enter into a new phase of its existence. Nature has provided numerous examples proving that inability to adapt to the changing environment is not an advantage in the race for survival, called evolution.