

(Mr. Velayati, Islamic Republic of Iran)

are the most eligible member of the international community in giving a full assessment of the inhuman and devastating effects of the use of such weapons.

I need not embark upon any elaboration of technicalities. The numerous technical and medical reports prepared by United Nations expert missions dispatched to the Islamic Republic of Iran in order to have direct on-site inspections, have been made available to all Members of the United Nations. I would like rather to address some other important aspects of the matter.

First, the intensified, continuous and systematic use of chemical weapons by Iraq after the Security Council's condemnations of 26 March 1986, which unfortunately did not result in any effective international preventive reaction, bears witness, once more, to the fact that repetitious use of these weapons by Iraq has weakened the Geneva Protocol of 1925 to an unprecedented degree.

This fact substantiates the validity and necessity of the view once expressed in this very forum by one of the distinguished members of this Conference, that it is time for all we signatories to that Protocol, through one international announcement, re-express our commitments to this Protocol, as well as our determination to prevent any further violation of it by all international ways and means. I would like to repeat this appeal here to the Conference to consider seriously this very important suggestion which I am confident will reinforce the Protocol.

Secondly, some countries, in particular some of the members of this Conference, have already adopted a measure which in our view have been quite positive and effective. They have put a ban on the export to Iraq of any material which may be susceptible of being used as a chemical agent in chemical warfare.

While I would like to express my appreciation for such measures, I should stress that this must be a collective international practice, otherwise Iraq will find these materials on some other markets. Not only that, but the number of banned items, because of rather simple manufacturing technology, should be substantially increased, and cover all suspicious and potentially dangerous substances. The banning of the exportation of such items should be established through the United Nations as an international obligatory practice, and not be left only to the political will of States.

We expect this Conference seriously to consider this task. Needless to say, such arrangements should not only apply to our case but should also be an established procedure for any occasions of such a nature.

Thirdly, we have fortunately witnessed in recent months that positive initiatives for the total ban of the use, production, development and stockpiling of chemical weapons have been introduced, on the regional as well as international scale.

I cannot but express here our satisfaction at the initiative of your own Government, Mr. President, regarding a chemical-weapon-free zone in a part of Europe. I hope that this initiative will soon be realized and thus encourage other countries to embark upon similar initiatives. However, I have to stress