

(Mr. Loeis, Indonesia)

weapons on the battlefield during the present war, the Conference now faces the critical historic task of bringing about a treaty banning the use, possession, production and development of these weapons.

There are some issues left to be solved in order to conclude the convention. The main task at the current session of the Conference, as far as chemical weapons are concerned, is that of finding solutions in principle to those few issues where there is as yet no agreement, mainly the question of universal adherence. For this purpose the future convention must provide for systematic and total destruction of all chemical weapons within a specific period. The legitimate concern for the security of non-possessor States should be addressed in a way which ensures that the implementation of the convention will not create any new imbalance which might undermine their security concerns. Those States which do not possess or intend to possess chemical weapons for their military and defence purposes, which I believe comprises the majority of States in the globe, should not be in the position of being caught off guard and finding that, at the end of the destruction period, certain States parties are allowed to retain their chemical weapons stocks. My delegation will find it difficult to support a draft convention which permits the existence of these weapons. The political cost of protesting at a later stage will be too high for a country like mine, which has so far scrupulously observed its obligations under any treaty relating to disarmament.

Indonesia has consistently supported the role played by the United Nations in the maintenance of peace and security at regional as well as global levels. For that reason, the Government of the Republic of Indonesia hosted the United Nations Regional Disarmament Workshop for Asia and the Pacific in Bandung from 28 January to 1 February 1991. The convening of the workshop, in co-operation with the United Nations Department for Disarmament Affairs, took place under the mandate of United Nations General Assembly resolution 40/151 H. The programme for this workshop covered a wide range of issues which are of deep concern to the entire world. These include peace and security in Asia and the Pacific, global disarmament to strengthen the régime of the non-proliferation of nuclear and other weapons of mass destruction, the chemical weapons convention, regional disarmament efforts and a proposal to strengthen the non-proliferation régime and conflict resolution in the Asia-Pacific region. I am hopeful that the results of these deliberations will contribute substantially to the region's comprehension of these issues, and more specifically that it will also contribute to the implementation of United Nations General Assembly resolution 40/151 H concerning the promotion of regional disarmament training and advisory services.