

(Mr. Campora, Argentina)

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At present the Conference on Disarmament has amongst its most attainable and promising objectives that of the elaboration of a convention banning chemical weapons.

Once again we can see the complex nature of a task that should be carried out in order to give an absolute guarantee that the rules laid down will not leave any loophole which will permit the activities of the chemical industry to be diverted to ends not allowed by the Convention. But at the same time we should take care that those rules designed to prohibit the production of chemical weapons do not form an impediment to the development of the chemical industry for civilian purposes.

Nor can we accept that the provisions of this Convention should serve as an excuse to restrict international co-operation and limit the benefits of the development of the chemical industry to a handful of powerful countries that may currently have a monopoly on major advances in the chemical industry, just as in the past they held advantages in the nuclear energy industry in order to create a discriminatory nuclear weapon non-proliferation régime.

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(Mr. Turbanski, Poland)

As the spring session of the CD draws to a close, my delegation would like to share some thoughts on its results. Despite some progress, a better political climate and business-like exchanges of views on many issues, apart from chemical weapons, no visible results have been achieved. This is especially true with regard to the whole complex of priority nuclear items. It must create a feeling of disappointment, especially in the light of developments in other disarmament forums -- in particular the whole range of the Soviet-United States talks. The latest initiatives from the Soviet Union, especially on medium-range and operational-tactical missiles, are a further convincing demonstration of new political thinking, a dynamic approach to disarmament. This is also what we need in the proceedings of our Conference, which in general cannot be described as a dynamic disarmament body. So far, it has not sufficiently used its unique mechanism to grasp the existing opportunities, as if it was out of touch with the recent developments.