

Mr. NAZARKIN (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) (translated from Russian):

I think that this demonstration, in which we saw with our own eyes the practical implementation of the Soviet-American INF Treaty, will stimulate the work of the Conference on Disarmament. In point of fact, we witnessed the birth of an era free of nuclear weapons. I hope the time will come when we will witness steps to implement multilateral disarmament agreements, too, in the area of nuclear, chemical and conventional weapons.

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(The President)

It is sad to see that the Geneva Protocol of 1925 has been violated with impunity so intensely and indiscriminately. It is a very dangerous trend that weapons of mass destruction such as chemical weapons are gradually being treated as normal, and that international reaction to reports of their repeated use, substantiated by various United Nations investigating teams, has been rather acquiescent. If the use of such weapons becomes a routine and effective way of pursuing military objectives, then curbing it will be almost impossible in the future. It is an urgent task of this Conference, as the sole multilateral disarmament negotiating body, to put the final touches to the instrument being negotiated on a comprehensive, total and globally verifiable convention banning the development, production and stockpiling of chemical weapons. Achievements so far have been noteworthy, and the international community is keenly awaiting the early conclusion of this convention. In this respect, the reports of the investigating teams, and particularly Security Council resolutions 612 and 620, will facilitate our work in finalizing the convention.

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A comprehensive, global and effective ban on chemical weapons is a priority issue in the Conference on Disarmament. This important objective is now within reach. It is necessary to sustain the current momentum in the negotiations with a view to concluding the chemical weapons convention at the earliest possible date. No effort should be spared to eliminate this category of weapons of mass destruction. I should like to pay tribute to the Chairman of the Committee on Chemical Weapons in 1988, Ambassador Sujka of Poland. He also ably guided this subsidiary body six years ago, at which time he initiated work on a number of important areas of the convention. Significant progress has been made since then. Nevertheless, we have to recognize that there are still a number of sensitive political issues and complicated technical problems to be resolved.

The convention involves verifying the elimination of stockpiles and production facilities over a 10-year period, as well as monitoring the chemical industry on a permanent basis. Never before has a multilateral treaty of such broad scope, which provides for such comprehensive verification systems, been concluded. The chemical weapons convention will therefore have an important bearing on future multilateral disarmament agreements.