

(Mr. Jeszenszky, Hungary)

... Most of the security challenges the world has to face today have manifested themselves strikingly in the Gulf war. These include the menace resulting from nuclear and missile proliferation, the possible use of chemical and biological weapons and the introduction of the ecological weapon.

... I am convinced that the persistent threat of chemical weapons represents one of the major dangers with respect to human suffering. I suppose that many of us here were shocked by the pictures showing the frightening skills children acquired in using gas masks. Surely, none of us would like to create a future where such abilities are a prerequisite of human existence and where mankind has to learn to live under the perilous shadow of chemical weapons.

After more than 20 years of negotiations we need no additional arguments in favour of the early conclusion of the chemical weapons convention. We need action now, decisive and urgent action. This item of the agenda will have to be solved in the near future, despite the obvious fact that answers to major political and technical questions have yet to be found.

For any multilateral disarmament agreement to be viable the widest possible adherence is of crucial importance. In the case of the chemical weapons convention this means the involvement of all States that have declared the possession of chemical weapons and all States that have the technological capability of producing such weapons. In order to achieve the aim of universality the future convention must be attractive in the broadest sense and in no way discriminatory for potential States parties.

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