

... (Mr. Velayati, Islamic Republic of Iran)

The history of the imposed war against the Islamic Republic of Iran shows in the most vivid manner the fact that the present international instruments for the prevention and suppression of acts of aggression fall far short of any effect.

We all know that the most important of all such instruments, namely the provisions of the United Nations Charter, have not been able to have even some mitigating effect. Even commercial navigation and civil aviation have not been spared in our region from systematic military attacks, despite all existing international legal barriers.

After all the international condemnations of the deployment of chemical weapons by Iraq, the use of such weapons has been intensified in the whole course of the past years. The lack of any international guarantee for compliance with and international observance of the present rules and principles has led to the intensification of violations of international law on a world scale.

Here, and for this very reason, I would like to express our full support for the idea introduced in the Forty-first Session of the General Assembly in resolution 41/92 concerning the "establishment of a comprehensive system of international peace and security".

This is a positive view which merits further elaboration by this Conference in its coming sessions, but I would like to add that a very important step towards the achievement of an effective international peace and security system is to seek and encourage regional arrangements, which proves to be a more feasible task under the prevailing situations. Naturally and inevitably, such arrangements will provide the very necessary regional or global foundations to assure the countries not possessing destructive weapons.

In short, as a result of the experience we have had in our region, we have reached the conclusion that regional arrangements free from the influence of the Eastern or Western camps may in the best and shortest way serve the common task of confidence-building in general and of providing assurances to non-nuclear-weapon States vis-à-vis any use or threat of use of nuclear weapons in particular.

The agreement reached last year at the Stockholm Conference reflects the fact that Europe has already appreciated this notion, whereas unfortunately in other regions, especially in the disturbed areas and hot beds of tension, it has yet to be understood as it must be.

I have now to address one of the most important items of the agenda of the Conference, namely, chemical weapons. As a nation which has suffered most from the use of such barbaric weapons, I would like to assert that perhaps we