

(Mr. Batsanov, Russian Federation)

... Russia intends, as a matter of principle, to accede to the international regime for the non-proliferation of missile and missile technology as an equal partner. It also supports the efforts of the "Australian group" for control of chemical exports.

The Russian Federation intends to adopt domestic legislation regulating the export from Russia of "double purpose" materials, equipment and technology that could be used for the production of nuclear, chemical and biological weapons as well as battlefield missiles. A system of State control over such exports is being created.

Russia seeks to establish the closest cooperation and coordination among all the member States of the Commonwealth of Independent States on these issues.

The statement underlines - and now I am moving to what is clearly the key issue for the Conference's activity now that Russia advocates the earliest conclusion - already in 1992 - of a global convention on the prohibition of chemical weapons. It is necessary reliably to block ways of gaining possession of chemical weapons without detriment to the legitimate economic interests of the parties to such a convention. Moreover, Russia adheres to the agreement with the United States on the non-production and elimination of chemical weapons signed in 1990. However, the agreement's timetable for the elimination of such weapons needs some adjustments.

All the chemical weapons of the former USSR are on Russian soil and the statement stresses that Russia assumes responsibility for their elimination.

Russia is open to cooperation on this issue with the United States and the other countries concerned.

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