

(Mr. Genscher, Germany)

... Mr. President, if the mandate of the United Nations General Assembly that a chemical weapons convention be submitted at this year's session is to be implemented, consensus must be reached by the beginning of August. The progress already made and the spirit in which you are supporting the German chairman make me confident that this goal can be reached.

Thereafter, when this year's United Nations General Assembly has endorsed our common product, a signature conference should be convened as soon as possible. I call upon all States that have not already done so to declare their willingness to become original signatories of the convention. To obtain the signatures of as many States as possible under this historic document from the outset, all members of the international community, whether members of the Conference on Disarmament or not, should participate in such a signature conference. I welcome President Mitterrand's offer to hold such a conference in Paris before the end of the year.

For the Geneva Conference on Disarmament, the chemical weapons convention will be the first treaty to be successfully concluded since the Biological Weapons Convention of 1972. In that sense, the success of the CW Convention will also guarantee continued confidence in the Geneva Conference on Disarmament and in the fulfilment of its future tasks. Germany will do all within its power to contribute to a successful outcome. Of that, Mr. President, I can expressly assure you and the States assembled here.

(Mr. García Moritán, Argentina)

... Mr. President, besides announcing the submission of that important document, today Brazil and Argentina would like to express some general considerations on a category of weapons of mass destruction of particular significance and responsibility for all of us in this Conference on Disarmament: chemical weapons.

Time flies and we are faced with the fact that we are now well into the first quarter of 1992. This is the year within which we have committed ourselves before the international community to conclude our negotiations. That commitment, which is a prominent feature of the mandate we have given the Ad Hoc Committee, has caught the attention of the international community, which is carefully watching us.