

(Mr. Genscher, Federal Republic of Germany)

The Federal Government attaches central importance to the negotiations on a world-wide agreement outlawing chemical weapons. We have long held the view that every effort must be made to attain a comprehensive, universally applicable and reliably verifiable ban on these weapons 60 years after the conclusion of the 1925 Geneva Protocol. The reports on the use of chemical weapons in the conflict between Iraq and Iran have in a horrifying manner confirmed fears regarding the proliferation of chemical weapons. Fresh dynamism and willingness to be flexible are now called for to expedite these negotiations.

Difficult questions in the fields of "on-challenge" inspections, verification of the destruction of stocks and production facilities, and verification of the non-production of chemical weapons are still to be resolved. In its active participation in the work of the Conference in these spheres, my country is the only one that can invoke practical experience of international controls in connection with its pledge not to produce chemical weapons, controls which have been carried out within the Western European Union framework.

This experience has shown that effective verification of the non-production of chemical weapons is possible and can be reasonably expected, even in cases where the country in question has such an extensive and widely diversified chemical industry as the Federal Republic of Germany.