

(Mr. Froysnes, Norway)

challenge retains special significance. We believe that an effective and verifiable convention will necessitate a compulsory system of on-site inspections without making use of unnecessary intrusiveness. The elaboration of such a system is a momentous task, which will require an open mind and a flexible attitude from all the parties concerned.

So where do we go from here? I wish to recall that the United States, for its part, has tabled comprehensive proposals in the draft convention of April 1984. This was a welcome contribution. My Government attaches importance to the fact that the United States underlined that the draft was not presented on a take-it-or-leave-it basis. This is a necessary approach for all the parties at the present time. In his statement on 15 January General Secretary Gorbachev announced that the Soviet Union would accept strict control, including international on-site inspection, for a number of major measures to be covered by the convention, inter alia destruction of the relevant industrial base for production of chemical weapons.

Let us now, then, have all the cards laid down. Think what a relief it would be if this Conference could finally announce that the horrors of chemical weapons will be eliminated! It is high time now.

In Norway's participation in these negotiations in the Conference on Disarmament we have presented the results of comprehensive field research on verification of alleged use of chemical weapons. The Norwegian research programme will continue and later this year we will present additional proposals dealing with verification of alleged use of such weapons.

In this connection I also want to emphasize the grave concern of my Government in view of the new and recent reports on use of chemical weapons in the Iran-Iraq war. The Norwegian Government condemns the use of such weapons. These reports, and not least the recent statement of the Foreign Minister of Iran, underscore once more the urgency of the negotiations in the Conference on Disarmament on a chemical weapons ban.

We know that various proposals for regional zones free from chemical weapons and a treaty on the non-proliferation of chemical weapons have also been put forward. I think what we know of the use of chemical weapons dictates that we must eliminate this class of weapons altogether from existing arsenals. All other considerations are second to this fundamental objective.