

(Mr. Velayati, Islamic Republic of Iran)

The Council has not only refrained from concerted efforts at the political level; it has not even made a binding call to Iraq to end its chemical attacks. It is evident that the weak positions of the Security Council have given carte blanche to Iraq to perpetuate its illegal and inhuman crimes.

It may be argued that these issues are irrelevant to the deliberations of the Conference on Disarmament, but that is not so. What I have just stated is an important matter dealing directly with the fate of the activities of this Conference on this subject. I hereby call on the representatives of all countries, particularly those of the permanent members of the Security Council, to pose this question to the representatives at the United Nations, and I quote, "Will the Council have the same approach towards non-compliance with and violation of the new convention?" If that is so, another régime must be worked out to guarantee the implementation of the provisions of the convention, particularly in the field of preventing the use of chemical weapons. If the Council is faced with certain political considerations vis-à-vis naked violations by Iraq, you should rest assured that the same results will be derived from new endeavours and it will be discredited in the same manner as the Geneva Protocol.

The Islamic Republic of Iran is constantly and strongly calling for an effective international régime for compliance with provisions on the use of chemical weapons. Concerted, all-out action for strengthening the present Protocol is a necessary prerequisite for fortifying the new convention. The theoretical views on verification and prevention should be accompanied by practical experiences of violation of the Geneva Protocol by Iraq. We have started compiling these experiences and we hope that we will be able to provide this Conference with the results at a convenient time.

The efforts of the Conference in the field of chemical disarmament are noteworthy. The decisions of the Conference regarding the convention on prohibition of the deployment, development, production and possession of chemical weapons will be a litmus test of how far the Conference has been successful in carrying out its obligations. The plans proposed by various countries regarding the new convention reflect the comprehension by delegations of the urgency and importance attached to the subject.

One of the positive elements in the draft convention is the destruction of the present world arsenals of chemical weapons. We believe that the expressed concerns regarding the prolongation of the time-limit for the destruction of all chemical weapons are justifiable because, during the 10-year period proposed, the possibility of the use of such weapons will continue to exist. Therefore it is advisable that the Conference should consider the reduction of this time-limit to the shortest possible and that during this period of time all the stockpiles should come under international supervision.

In the meantime, progress in the formulation of the chemical weapons convention should not prevent us from progress in other areas of disarmament. If the use of chemical weapons has given an incentive to expedite