

(Mr. Lang, Austria)

on Chemical Weapons. However, the application of that resolution taught the inspectors involved highly valuable lessons. Drawing on their experience, we think that the right of the on-site United Nations inspectors to go anywhere, anytime, in Iraq was absolutely necessary, in particular because of Iraq's attempts to cover up in the nuclear area. The obstacles that emerged from various factors, for instance during the efforts to discover all Iraqi SCUD missiles, underline the vital need for a strong verification regime in the framework of the future Convention on Chemical Weapons. This proves to us again that the unbroken efficiency of challenge inspection is, in our view, the centre-piece of a dissuasive verification regime. As we have been talking of Iraq's behaviour during inspections commissioned by the United Nations, it ought also to be mentioned that Iraq eventually took a more cooperative stance with regard to chemical weapons and the relevant inspections.

... As long as two years ago, we had the privilege to present Austria's invitation to host the future Organization for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons in Vienna. This proposal is to be seen as a consistent continuation of Austria's readiness to substantially contribute to the work of international organizations and to international peace. An optimal working environment for

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