

by this year's Chairman had many difficult technical and legal issues to consider, and they responded with extraordinary diligence and perseverance. We hope that a strengthened sense of purpose will be conveyed to the delegates in Geneva as a result of the highly successful Government-Industry Conference Against Chemical Weapons, recently concluded in Canberra, Australia.<sup>25</sup>

Ms. Mason went on to note the problem of adherence to a Chemical Weapons Convention:

It has been suggested by some that convincing states to adhere to a chemical weapons convention, once concluded, might be a lengthy process. In fact, for many years, states have indicated in this Committee that they not only support a chemical weapons convention, but that they eagerly await its conclusion. Their votes in favour of resolutions calling for this agreement should be regarded as promises to be kept.<sup>26</sup>

On 15 December 1989, at the Forty-fourth Session of the UN General Assembly, Canada co-sponsored three resolutions on chemical and biological weapons. Resolution 44/115A urged that efforts be intensified and that increased time be devoted to the negotiation of a Chemical Weapons Convention.<sup>27</sup> Resolution 44/115B called for strict adherence to the Geneva Protocol and a continuation of efforts by the Secretary-General, when a member state reports to him the use of chemical and bacteriological (biological) weapons or toxins, to conduct an investigation expeditiously in order to determine the facts. The resolution also noted the work done by the Group of Experts responsible for developing further guidelines and procedures for investigations into accusations of use.<sup>28</sup> Resolution 44/115C expressed satisfaction with the adoption of procedures for the exchange of information in accordance with the provisions of the Final Declaration of the second review conference of the BWC. The resolution also called upon member states to communicate such information annually and requested the Secretary-General to provide assistance where required to facilitate implementation of the relevant parts of the Final Declaration. The Resolution concluded by calling upon all states to ratify or sign the Convention if they had not yet done so.<sup>29</sup> All three resolutions were adopted by consensus.

On 24 April 1990, Canada's Ambassador to the CD, Gerald Shannon, made reference to the negotiation of a ban on chemical weapons at the CD. Ambassador Shannon pointed out that this issue was the most important one the CD faced during its 1990 session. He noted the threat posed by the existence of chemical weapons and reiterated the importance of achieving real

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<sup>25</sup> "Mason Addresses First Committee." *The Disarmament Bulletin* (Fall 1989), p.15.

<sup>26</sup> *Ibid.*

<sup>27</sup> UNGA Resolution 44/115(A), 15 December 1989.

<sup>28</sup> UNGA Resolution 44/115(B), 15 December 1989.

<sup>29</sup> UNGA Resolution 44/115(C), 15 December 1989.