

(Mr. Morel, France)

In August 1985 France submitted a contribution to discussion on this subject (document CD/630) which elaborated on the concept of balance in security, through the maintenance, over the 10-year period, of a genuine balance which will preserve the security of the States parties. In view of the extreme quantitative and qualitative disproportion in existing stocks, the application of a more or less linear system of destruction could lead only to increased insecurity right from the very beginning of the 10-year period for countries with only limited stocks, compared with States that have very large stocks. Consequently, the French paper CD/630 introduced the concept of security stocks that States would be authorized to hold right to the end of the 10-year period.

I would add that the concept of security stocks does not concern only States that declare chemical weapons stocks in the 30 days following the entry into force of the Convention. All States have an interest in maintaining the balance. If balance is not assured -- or if it is jeopardized either gradually or abruptly, for instance if one of the States parties withdraws from the Convention or refuses to proceed further with the elimination of remaining stocks -- the security of all the States parties could be threatened. We therefore hope that the Conference will look in detail at this aspect of the Convention, and we will shortly be presenting proposals to this end.

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Mr. SHAFII (Islamic Republic of Iran): Mr. President, as a matter of principle, my delegation cannot support the request made by Iraq for the very simple reason that Iraq, by its intensified, continuous and systematic use of chemical weapons, has shown disregard for the work and goals of this Conference and also for the views of the international community. I need not embark on any elaboration on the use of chemical weapons by Iraq, since numerous technical and medical reports by United Nations experts confirming the use of chemical weapons by Iraq have been accessible to members of this body, and all distinguished delegates are aware of them. Several members of this Conference, along with many other members of the international community, have voiced their concern and condemnation in this regard.

In the view of my delegation, the participation of Iraq, which has such an undisputable record in the violation of the Geneva Protocol of 1925, would not contribute to the work of the Conference. Therefore, my delegation would like to register its opposition to the request made by Iraq.