

(Mr. Park, Republic of Korea)

meetings. This extended participation in the work of the CD is a reflection of my Government's positive interest in the United Nations-sponsored multilateral disarmament negotiations. My delegation also wishes to express special thanks to Ambassador Miljan Komatina, Secretary-General of the CD, and his staff for their invaluable assistance in making the necessary arrangements and preparations.

... The conference on the prohibition of chemical weapons in Paris in January of this year was a timely and most significant event. The Final Declaration adopted by consensus is a testimony to its success. The conference provided a valuable opportunity to reaffirm the validity of the Protocol for the Prohibition of the Use in War of Asphyxiating, Poisonous or Other Gases, and of Bacteriological Methods of Warfare, signed on 17 June 1925 in Geneva, and to reaffirm the obligations established therein and commitments made thereto. The unequivocal support given to the United Nations and its Secretary-General underlines the world community's renewed awareness of their indispensable role in safeguarding mankind from the threat of this horrible weapon. It is a source of great satisfaction to my country that we participated in this global endeavour and were able to make constructive contributions to it. The accession to the Geneva Protocol of 1925 by my country represents a worthy addition to broadening the basis for a global chemical weapons ban.

While attending the Paris Conference, His Excellency Choi Ho-Joong, Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Korea, made clear in his address the stand my country takes with regard to chemical weapons. He said:

"The Republic of Korea has never possessed and does not have at its disposal any type of chemical weapons. Nor will we consider developing, producing or stockpiling such weapons in the future. We categorically object to keeping chemical weapons on the Korean peninsula."

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