

Mr. KOMATINA (Secretary-General of the Conference and Personal Representative of the Secretary-General of the United Nations): The message, as you said, is addressed to the members of the Conference on Disarmament.

... "We welcome the progress achieved on a convention banning the production and stockpiling of chemical weapons. While we recognize the complexity of the negotiations, we are aware of the continuing danger that chemical weapons may be used in regional conflicts. We urge the Conference to increase its efforts to overcome the remaining obstacles and conclude the treaty by the end of this year.

Mr. von STULPNAGEL (Federal Republic of Germany):

Maybe the sense of urgency and resolve prevailing in those forums will prove contagious. There is no reason why we should not set ourselves equally ambitious goals for the conclusion of the chemical weapons convention. Otherwise we risk being the last to change in a world of change, or those who did not change in time - as happened to the dinosaurs, you may remember. We all know that the necessary political and material prerequisites for the timely conclusion of our task of drafting a comprehensive and global convention effectively banning chemical weapons exist. Firstly, the Paris Conference held at the beginning of last year definitely made the elimination of existing chemical weapon stockpiles and production facilities, and the prohibition of any further manufacture, acquisition, storage, transfer or use of chemical weapons, a common cause of the whole international community. All States participating in that Conference called upon the Conference on Disarmament to redouble its efforts to resolve expeditiously the remaining issues with a view to concluding the convention at the earliest date. In addition, the world chemical industry strongly endorsed our negotiations at the instigation of the Australian Government at the Canberra Conference last year. Secondly, in terms of material preparation for an early convention, the Conference on Disarmament has over the last few years been engaged in particularly intensive negotiations covering all aspects. So the opportunity must be seized. The outstanding problems need to be addressed resolutely. Solutions to the key issues which have been under discussion for so long cannot be put off time after time.

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