

(Mr. de Rivero, Peru)

... The Conference on Disarmament has the ineluctable responsibility to finalize this year the convention to eradicate all chemical weapons once and for all from the face of the Earth, thus ending a barren 15-year period during which the Conference on Disarmament did not produce any agreement. It is on the threshold of this deadline, which will determine the future of the Conference on Disarmament, that I venture to make three comments on the approach that should guide the negotiations so as to ensure that they are successful and that by the end of this year we have a convention banning chemical weapons.

My first thought relates to the scope of the prohibition and the intended beneficiary of protection under the convention. On this important aspect of the negotiations, there are some - guided no doubt by the best of intentions - who would like to exclude from the convention any gap, ambiguity or loophole that could give rise to possible forms of non-compliance that are not explicitly prohibited in the text. With the best intentions they seek a

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