Mr Chairman,

Destruction of chemical weapons is the main pillar of the Convention. It is unfortunate that the only possessor State Party of the chemical weapons stockpiles not only failed to meet the final extended deadline of April 2012 for the destruction of chemical weapons but also sought to delay the fulfilment of its obligations until 2023.

We believe that in order to prove its compliance to the Convention, the possessor State Party should utilise its entire capacity and expedite the process of destruction of its chemical weapons.

The destruction of the declared chemical weapons stockpile of the United States of America presumably continues until the Fifth Review Conference in 2023. Therefore this issue should remain as the highest future priority of the Organisation. It is obvious that there will be no post-destruction stage without putting an end to this process.

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