Israel signed the CWC and participated actively in the preparatory commission in order to shape the Convention into a workable mechanism. By signing the convention Israel reflected its moral vision and commitment to a world free of chemical weapons.

Unfortunately, while Israel signed the Convention in January 1993, other countries in the region, including those that have used chemical weapons in the past or are believed to be working to improve their chemical capabilities, have failed to follow suit and have indicated that their position would remain unchanged even if Israel ratified the convention.

Mr. Chairman,

The issue of Israel's ratification of the CWC is strongly linked to our unique geo-political environment. As clearly stated at the signing ceremony, in 1993, Israel's decision regarding the ratification of the convention would be subject primarily to regional considerations including the security climate in the Middle East. Since the entry into force of the CWC, the threat of Chemical warfare against Israel's population has not diminished, and remains no less valid today. In fact the overall regional security concern has actually increased.

We wish to reaffirm Israel's view that positive changes in the security climate in the Middle East will be the major consideration for Israel regarding the issue of ratification.