

*Dr. Boutros Boutros-Ghali, the UN Secretary-General, honoured the Conference with his presence during part of the first plenary session and delivered an address to the participants (see summary, p. 372). Mr. Jan Eliasson, Under-Secretary-General for Humanitarian Affairs, also spoke on the various aspects of the protection of war victims.*

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## **OPENING OF THE CONFERENCE**

*(30 August 1993)*

*The Conference was declared open on 30 August 1993 by Mr. Flavio Cotti, head of the Swiss Federal Department of Foreign Affairs and Chairman of the Conference, in the presence of 815 delegates from various States and organizations. A total of 160 of the 189 States invited attended the Conference. Of those, 39 were represented by ministers, 20 by vice-ministers and 12 by secretaries of state. The Conference was also attended by 16 observers and 16 other participants.*

*After adopting the agenda and the rules of procedure, the Conference elected 24 vice-chairmen and appointed Mr. Philippe Kirsch, Director General of the Bureau of Legal Affairs of the Canadian Department of External Affairs and International Trade, as Chairman of the Drafting Committee. All the delegations were invited to take part in the work of the Drafting Committee.*

*The Chairman of the Conference and Mr. Cornelio Sommaruga, President of the ICRC and Special Rapporteur to the Conference, then delivered the following addresses (published below in full):*