

(Mr. Turbanski, Poland)

Hard and devoted work by delegations taking part in all stages of consultations, but especially the extremely important contribution of technical experts, produced a solid backbone for our work in January.

I would like to take this opportunity to express before the Conference my deepest gratitude to all those who took part in the preparatory work of the resumed session.

At the beginning of the session, the Committee accepted the Chairman's proposal, based on the work done during the consultations, to consider the following three issues:

(a) Article II (Definitions and Criteria), point 4, in the context of Article VI (Permitted Activities);

(b) Article II (Definitions and Criteria), point 5, in the context of Article V (Measures on Chemical Weapons Production Facilities);

(c) Article IX (Consultation, Co-operation and Fact-Finding).

The report duly reflects the Committee's work, which resulted in further clarification or development of the issues involved..

With regard to the first issue, work was undertaken on further refining the three criteria characterizing key precursors, on defining especially dangerous key precursors or key components for chemical weapons systems and on identifying chemicals which are produced in large commercial quantities and which could be used for chemical-weapons purposes.

An endeavour was made to compile lists of these groups of chemicals. The progress achieved in this area is a result of lasting, patient efforts and a compromise approach by all the delegations involved. It is reflected in the annex to this report, entitled "Integrated Approach for Listing Relevant Chemicals", which is, of course, at its preliminary stage, and hence subject to development and revision.

The work on the issue of chemical weapons production facilities was more of an exploratory nature. Its purpose was a gradual identification of kinds of production facilities or parts of facilities, which should, for the purposes of the Convention, be included in the definition of a "chemical weapons production facility". Both the method which was applied and the level of clarification and identification achieved are extensively described in the report.

Still another method of work was used with regard to Article IX. A broad discussion took place, allowing delegations to explain their approaches and relevant aspects of their positions on fact-finding and a system of on-challenge verification.

In the course of discussions, a number of approaches, as well as a number of areas deserving more thorough consideration in the future, were identified, as reflected in the report.