

(Mr. Azikiwe, Nigeria)

against the demand of industry to severely restrict the information that may be demanded for verification purposes. It is reassuring that although the experts were all too anxious to ensure that industrial secrets were given sufficient consideration and protection, as well as compensation if breached, they were also aware of the need to strengthen the convention.

This brings me to the question of sanctions. This issue received limited attention during the spring session. It is however now receiving serious consideration in Working Group 2 of the Ad Hoc Committee. We welcome any measure that can strengthen the convention that is currently being elaborated. The provision of sanctions or penalties for violations of the convention, is one such measure which my delegation attaches great importance to. The nature of the sanctions or penalty should be determined by the extent of the violation. Minor violations should attract automatic and mandatory sanctions while major violations should, after prompt investigation, be dealt with speedily first by the Conference of States parties and thereafter by the Security Council. Once a decision is taken to penalize a violation of the convention, the sanctions should be mandatory, effective and collectively undertaken by all States parties. It is equally important that sanctions should also be applied to non-States parties who violate the convention. By signing the convention a State party will be denying itself the right to produce or acquire this weapon, which a non-State party may produce and even use freely if there is no such deterrent measure. States parties will therefore be at a disadvantage, and also placed at the mercy of the non-States parties which may be tempted to use such weapons against them. Collective action by States parties against such violations of the convention would deter non-States parties from possible breach.

Let me conclude my statement with a brief comment on the forthcoming Canberra Government-Industry Conference Against Chemical Weapons. The involvement of experts in the work of the Conference on Disarmament has proved to be very useful in our negotiations. It is hoped that the Canberra meeting will enable the chemical industry to appreciate the need for a chemical weapons convention. However, my delegation is constrained to urge that the Canberra meeting should not be used to promote non-proliferation of chemical weapons, export control of chemicals to developing countries and restriction on transfer of technology to developing countries. To do otherwise would undermine the efforts of the Conference on Disarmament and indeed put in jeopardy the work that has so far been done on the convention.