

Mr. von STULPNAGEL (Federal Republic of Germany):

Next Thursday the Conference on Disarmament will be presented with the report of its Ad hoc Committee on Chemical Weapons. I would like to express my appreciation and thanks to the Chairman of the Committee, Ambassador Sujka, and the chairmen of the working groups, Mr. Cima, Mr. Macedo and Mr. Numata, for the committed efforts and the hard work they have undertaken during the past session to move the negotiations forward.

On 16 August I promised a further contribution on ad hoc checks in the light of comments made since my delegation presented the case for ad hoc checks in working document CD/791 of 25 January this year. The purpose of the proposed ad hoc checks is to come to terms with the existing verification gap and provide an additional and easily manageable possibility for monitoring also those chemical industry facilities which would not be covered by on-site inspections under the provisions so far contained in the "rolling text".

Encouraged by the interest which was shown in our basic idea, we proceeded to elaborate on our concept of ad hoc checks. Today I would like to introduce document CD/869, which, taking account of the interesting discussions we have had on the issue in recent months, tries to develop the concept further, and I hope it will provide a useful basis for future work aimed at strengthening the verification régime for non-production.

In submitting this paper we do not claim to provide all the answers; rather, it is our intention to stimulate further thinking. The following points mark the basic framework from which we propose to proceed. Ad hoc checks are of a complementary nature; they are to be seen solely in the context of article VI, and represent an additional, unintrusive measure for verifying non-production, their main purpose being to verify the absence of substances listed in schedules [1], [2] and [3]; ad hoc checks are of a strictly routine character, with the technical secretariat initiating them on a random basis without any outside interference; and they are to cover the whole chemical industry on the basis of national registers listing all chemical industry facilities in accordance with an agreed definition.

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