

(Mr. Fan, China)

is a matter of concern to the Chinese delegation. We believe that it is reasonable and rational to include the prohibition of use in the mandate of the Ad hoc Committee. We hope that the States concerned will take positive steps so that this problem can be resolved effectively.

Verification remains one of the major outstanding issues. Under the chairmanship of Mr. Lüdeking of the delegation of the Federal Republic of Germany, Working Group 1 has conducted useful discussions on the general pattern of verification. In order to ensure the realization of the objectives of the convention and establish confidence among States parties, the convention should provide for effective and practicable verification measures. The effectiveness of verification lies in ensuring the destruction of existing chemical weapons and facilities for their production and preventing chemical industry from producing chemical weapons. In the field of verification of the non-production of chemical weapons by chemical industry, verification measures should focus on those facilities which pose major risks to the objectives of the convention. Effectiveness and practicability should both be taken into account in a verification régime. Neither of these two elements should be neglected. As an ideal, it is hoped that a type of absolutely flawless régime could be devised, but reality tells us that such an idealized verification régime can hardly be established. What is needed is a system which provides adequate assurance of compliance and at the same time is both realistic and practicable. As the Chinese saying goes, "the net of heaven has a large mesh, but it lets nothing through". If what we are seeking is an absolute and flawless régime, rather than a balance between ideal and reality, and between effectiveness and practicability, the outcome may well turn out to be counter-productive to our efforts to establish an effective and practicable verification régime.

The consultations on challenge inspections are still going on. Challenge inspection is a very important issue that needs in-depth and comprehensive discussions. As a few key issues still require further work, the relevant text remains in appendix II at this stage. Last year, under the chairmanship of Mr. Numata of the Japanese delegation, Group C conducted useful discussions on the general rules governing challenge inspections, and some preliminary results were achieved, as reflected in appendix I. But some main elements require further consideration during the elaboration of the principles of challenge inspection.

I would now like to make a few comments on challenge inspection. First of all, on the nature of challenge inspection, a view has been expressed to the effect that challenge inspection should be "properly and adequately" used in a non-confrontational manner. This is indeed possible in some cases, but one cannot rule out that challenge inspection may also have a confrontational nature in other cases. In view of the complexity of international politics and the highly intrusive character of challenge inspections, this type of inspection inevitably tends to be confrontational and politically charged in some circumstances. Challenge inspection is therefore a very serious matter which needs to be treated with the utmost prudence. Secondly, the Chinese delegation maintains that incidents of non-compliance which the challenge inspection aims to address are the concern not only of challenging States but also of all the States parties. Hence the relationship between the