

(Mr. Fan Guoxiang, China)

after further consultations and negotiations. Obviously, an appropriate settlement of the issue of destruction will have a favourable impact on the solution of other outstanding issues.

In the process of eliminating the existing chemical weapon stockpiles and their production facilities and after their total destruction, ways should also be found to prevent the production of new chemical weapons. While the States Parties enjoy the right to develop, produce, otherwise acquire, retain, transfer and use toxic chemicals and their precursors for peaceful purposes, they also have the obligation not to use their chemicals for purposes prohibited by the convention. Therefore, the non-production of chemical weapons by the civil chemical industry is yet another important issue to be addressed by the future convention. This has a direct bearing on the States Parties' confidence in the convention and on its effectiveness. In recent years, a series of proposals and working papers on the issue of non-production put forward by the United Kingdom, the Netherlands and Australia respectively have been useful to the discussion in the Ad Hoc Committee on Chemical Weapons. After the inter-sessional consultations of last winter and the resumed meeting of last January, the Ad Hoc Committee has formulated, on a preliminary basis, lists of chemicals relevant to the convention and their verification régimes. Not long ago, the Ad Hoc Committee further deliberated the issues of the modality of revision of the lists, the frequency of inspections and spot checks. The discussions have resulted in the clarification of issues and the identification of differences and therefore are conducive to our future work. Now I would like to state the views of the Chinese delegation on the issue of non-production.

In our opinion, in order to ensure that civil chemical enterprises do not produce chemical weapons, the chemical enterprises of all States should accept international monitoring, including on-site inspections. The monitoring and verification measures should be effective, reasonable and feasible. By effective, we mean that measures should be sufficient to prevent enterprises from diverting chemicals for weapon purposes so as to ensure compliance with the relevant provisions of the convention; by reasonable, we mean that the measures should not exceed certain necessary limits so as not to impair the legitimate interests of the enterprises or obstruct their management and development; by feasible, we mean that the measures should be acceptable to all States Parties and that their implementation does not require excessive human and financial resources. In a word, we should strive for the maximum verification effect with minimum cost.

Those basic ideas have been shared by many delegations during our deliberations. It is widely felt that only those facilities whose capacity is above a certain limit and may pose a risk to the objective of the convention should be subject to international verification. It has also been agreed that those facilities producing and using the key precursors contained in the lists should be subject to international routine on-site inspections; whereas those facilities producing chemicals that have extensive civilian uses but that can also be used for chemical-weapon purposes may be subject to a data-reporting system.