

(Mr. Ledogar, United States)

for discussion. We also hope for progress on the guidelines for schedule 1, but note that it is difficult to finalize such guidelines until the scope of schedule 1 is agreed.

Another important area of the work programme is the question of amendments. Much work must be done before agreement can be reached on procedures for amending the convention. We must also find ways to change less fundamental aspects of the convention by a mechanism less formal than an amendment procedure.

As I mentioned earlier, a number of the remaining issues are the most difficult, of great importance to all delegations and directly linked to the effective operation of the convention. Two such issues on our agenda this year - challenge inspection and the Executive Council - have eluded solutions for years. While we have made some progress in narrowing the focus on the unresolved aspects of these issues, much work remains to be done to meet the needs and concerns of all parties.

I have spent some time trying to outline the progress made to date on CW because I believe it is important for all of us to not lose sight of the substantial work that has been accomplished. At the same time, we still have some of the most thorny issues ahead of us. We must not slacken our pace, but we must continue to take the time required to develop provisions that will create a durable and universal convention that will enhance security while ridding the world of a class of weapons we all regard as abhorrent.