

(Mr. Azikiwe, Nigeria)

... Let me briefly comment on the ongoing negotiations in the Ad Hoc Committee on Chemical Weapons under the wise guidance of Ambassador Pierre Morel of France. Nigeria does not possess chemical weapons and has no such weapons from other States stationed on her territory. As has been rightly stressed several times before in the Conference, the credibility of the convention will depend to a large extent on the effectiveness of the verification régime that will finally be elaborated for the convention. The verification régime should therefore give very convincing assurance of compliance with the purposes and objectives of the convention, or that non-compliance will be detected. Such a régime would indeed strengthen the convention.

The many trial inspections undertaken so far are very vital for the elaboration of the verification régime. I wish to place on record our appreciation for the very commendable contribution by the Finnish delegation through its work in developing some basic elements of the inspection activities directly connected with the verification régime of the convention in the area of instrumentation, standard operating procedures and a computerized data base for the identification of the scheduled chemicals. We note with satisfaction the delegation's offer to train analytical chemists in the methods of analysis and instrumentation.

My delegation welcomes the intense discussions held by experts from industry on the question of confidentiality. The need to ensure effective verification by obtaining adequate information from industry was pitted

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