

(Mr. Mock, Austria)

that Austria will shortly be submitting two working papers to the Conference: a complete report on the trial inspection conducted in autumn 1989 at a chemical industry facility, and updated data on chemical industry production. Austria is prepared to do its utmost to contribute to the early conclusion of the chemical weapons convention.

Complete and effective verification of the convention remains the principal difficulty in the negotiations. The purpose of any system of rules should be to arrive at a degree of monitoring that precludes the production or stockpiling of militarily significant quantities of chemical weapons. This purpose seems capable of achievement. The need for effective verification should not, however, delay the conclusion of our work. This means, in our view, that certain limitations upon the monitoring of the convention should be accepted. In other words, we should weigh the wish for effective verification against the need for the early conclusion of this work. Reports of the growing proliferation of chemical weapons clearly show that time is working against us.

The Organization for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons, as a body of member States responsible for monitoring compliance with contractual obligations, will have to perform essential and very specific tasks. Hence the composition of its decision-making bodies is of particular importance, and should take account of political and geographical criteria, as well as criteria relating to the volume of chemical industry production. Austria recognizes the considerable importance of this organization. Two years ago in this very forum I first indicated that Austria was prepared to host this organization. Bearing in mind the progress achieved in the negotiations, I should now like to make this a concrete offer. In making this proposal and inviting the future Organization for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons to Vienna, Austria also hopes to give new impetus to the negotiations regarding the structure and functions of the organization. This invitation issued on behalf of Austria, a neutral State in perpetuity, is fully in harmony with its consistent policy of peace and international co-operation. My country has already shown in the past that it was prepared to contribute to the work of international organizations, not only in a general way but also in a specific way. This was demonstrated, for example, in the construction of the Vienna International Centre, home to the official headquarters of the International Atomic Energy Agency, the United Nations Office at Vienna and the United Nations Industrial Development Organization. The Vienna International Centre was entirely financed by Austria and is made available to its users for a token rent of one schilling per year.

Austria is prepared to host the Organization for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons on identical terms to those granted to the organizations which have already installed themselves in the Vienna International Centre. Firstly, Austria will make available to the organization adequate premises for the staff required during the preparatory phase, during the chemical weapon destruction phase and during the subsequent phase of permanent monitoring. Austria intends to make available to the organization initially a provisional headquarters with offices accommodating between 450 and 600 persons. This building, located in the centre of Vienna and with a net surface of 6,300 square metres, would be renovated and made available to the organization free of charge. Once the expected size of the organization is known, it is