

(Mr. Hyltenius, Sweden)

involvement of my delegation in the evaluation of the many national trial inspections has given us ample opportunity to take a close look at the provisions of annex II to article VI.

The NTI exercise taught us a limited lesson, namely that the inspections envisaged in annex II to article VI in the draft convention could technically be implemented. The Committee chose to stop at that conclusion. The national trial inspections as designed, however, could not serve to demonstrate that such inspections were effective in terms of an overall verification objective. Only a few delegations commented openly on the apparent futility of "crawling around one single reactor or production line" for a day when a number of similar reactors on the premises were undeclared and not even available for any kind of verification except on challenge. The doubts, which everyone that carried out an NTI must have felt, were however expressed by some through proposals for additions to the system in the shape of ad hoc inspections.

While discussing these proposals my delegation gradually came to the conclusion that an imperfect system would hardly get any better by adding to it. Instead, we started to look for ways and means to amend the present system in such a way that a comprehensive and unified approach could be taken to the chemical industry in its entirety. In doing so we had to depart from an imperfect material-balance verification of a narrow segment of the relevant industry to follow a verification concept that creates transparency in the entire industry concerned, combined with selective on-site verification efforts, either directed or at random. The outline given in CD/1053 is thus a proposal in its own right, which should be discussed and judged on its own merits and not in the light of provisions in the "rolling text" or other proposals under discussion.

The second thing this proposal is not is an unravelling of the "rolling text", an undoing of work done. This new approach is, rather, a redirection within a given framework. It builds on what has been already achieved or discussed, including experience from national trial inspections. Furthermore, the proposal in CD/1053 can contribute to solving some difficult outstanding issues. Thus the present schedule 2 verification in the "rolling text" cannot be said to be really agreed until the issues of modalities for determining the frequency of inspections and the actual contents of schedule 2 have been resolved. And those are major and difficult tasks. The approach in CD/1053 would resolve the issue of frequency and would permit a quick and easy compromise on the contents of the schedules. Finally, in the view of my delegation, the incorporation of CD/1053 into the "rolling text" would not require any major effort.

Far from re-opening a closed chapter, the outline in CD/1053 would permit the Conference to conclude one of the most difficult unresolved parts of the chemical weapons negotiations, namely how to create a sufficient degree of confidence that capabilities in the chemical industry are not misused for purposes prohibited by the convention, without undue intrusiveness and interference in perfectly legitimate industrial activities, and without causing unacceptable costs to the States parties.