

(Mr. Ekéus, Sweden)

Openness and transparency are indeed important for our work. Sweden welcomes the declarations that have been made during this session regarding the possession or non-possession of chemical weapons and chemical weapons production facilities. In this context, I am instructed to declare that Sweden does not possess chemical weapons.

This concludes my intervention in my capacity as the leader of the Swedish delegation. With your permission, however, I wish in my capacity as Chairman of the open-ended informal consultations on trial inspections to present a report on the work undertaken on that subject.

In the draft chemical weapons convention, a number of provisions relate to on-site inspections within the chemical industry. In order to expedite work on the convention, and to assess whether the proposed text has adequate and practical provisions to provide the necessary assurance to States that civil facilities are used only for purposes not prohibited by the convention, it has been suggested that trial inspections could be undertaken.

In a first stage, such trial inspections should be carried out on a national basis. In the second stage, the experience in the national trial inspections should be pooled and evaluated together, in the light of the relevant provisions of the draft convention. This process could be devoted to discussion of what might be involved in, and elaboration of, modalities for the third stage: trial inspections with multilateral participation.

Under the auspices of the Ad hoc Committee, and at the request of the Ad hoc Committee Chairman, I held informal, open-ended consultations to prepare the ground for such multilateral trial inspections in the chemical industry. As a result of these consultations a paper was elaborated. This paper has now been distributed to you. The paper is primarily intended to assist interested States in their preparations for the national trial inspections. The suggestions contained in the paper are not in any way binding or mandatory, but can be regarded as a list of issues of relevance to the trial inspections. The paper will be issued as a working paper of the Ad hoc Committee by the Chairman of the consultations.

As was agreed during the preparations for this round of consultations, delegations are free to add their comments to the paper before the end of this session. The present document, as I said, is issued under the responsibility of the Chairman of the consultations. The paper is divided into three parts. The first part (part A - General approach) could be used for the development of scenarios for the trial inspections. The second part (part B - Detailed approach) provides a kind of check-list for the elaboration of procedures for the conduct of the trial inspections. The third part (part C - Specific aspects) provides a list of issues which might be addressed by the trial inspections. Parts of the paper could also be used by States as a reference in preparing reports of the results of their national trial inspections.

Information available regarding the national trial inspections could be discussed during the inter-sessional work of the Ad hoc Committee on Chemical Weapons. The detailed elaboration of modalities for the multilateral trial inspections could commence in the 1989 spring session with a view to beginning the actual inspections as soon as possible after these modalities have been worked out.