

(Mr. Middleton, United Kingdom)

the last few years, it has become clear that the filing of detailed declarations by States parties will have a key role to play in ensuring confidence in the treaty regime. Without detailed declarations, adequate verification of the convention will be almost impossible, since it is clear that checks cannot be made, for example that all chemical weapons have been destroyed, unless we first know what chemical weapons a State holds.

In our view, declarations will fall into three categories. The first category will comprise those declarations which should be made soon after the convention enters into force. Such declarations should cover the following key areas:

(a) Whether or not a State possesses chemical weapons and facilities for their production;

(b) The stocks of chemical weapons and facilities for the production and filling of such weapons held by States;

(c) Plans for the destruction or, where appropriate, diversion for permitted purposes of declared stocks of chemical weapons;

(d) Plans for the destruction, dismantling or, where appropriate, conversion of declared facilities for the production and filling of chemical weapons.

These declarations should be detailed and accurate, and should include information on, inter alia:

The number and location of stockpiles;

The number and location of production facilities for both chemical agents and munitions, as well as munition-filling facilities;

The quantity of individual agents held and their concentration categorized by named agents;

The type and quantity of munitions, including any stocks of empty munitions specifically designed for chemical charges;

The capacity of production facilities and the agents or munitions which they produce.

The above declarations should, in our view, cover both single-purpose chemical agents, and dual-purpose chemical agents above a certain level of toxicity, together with key precursors, including those for use in binary munitions. If stockpiles of dual-purpose agents are held for commercial rather than military purposes, the commercial purpose should be stated. In addition, it will be necessary to declare in detail the plans for the destruction or diversion of stocks and production facilities.

The second type of declaration, which will need to be made at periodic intervals until all stocks and production facilities have been destroyed, will contain progress reports on the destruction process, and should give details of the timing of destruction programmes, the place where the destruction will take place, the quantities of munitions and individual named agents to be destroyed, and so on.