

(Mr. O'Sullivan, Australia)

prepared to become adherents to the completed convention. In this context, the Australian Government intends to host a workshop for regional chemists in Melbourne in the middle of this year with the aim of providing the necessary background and training to those technical advisers to Governments who will be required to complete declarations and assemble technical data. We are indebted to our Finnish colleagues for the model they have established and without shame we have adapted their work for our own region. May I add here that we admire the work that Dr. Rautio and her experts continue to produce? Associated with the workshop in Melbourne for regional chemists we plan to hold a multilateral trial inspection of a chemical plant there. We welcome the intention of the Governments of Venezuela and Nigeria to engage in similar exercises aimed at raising consciousness of the benefits and the requirements of the convention, and would encourage other members of this Conference to undertake similar exercises in their regions as tangible ways of soliciting support and promoting universal adherence to the concluded convention.

Australia has also been putting into place the administrative structure that will be needed once the convention comes into effect. We have found this to be no simple matter with a federal constitution and varying State and local government regulations. In the hope that our experiences may be of use to other nations, I have asked the secretariat to distribute today as a Conference document CD/1055, a strategy paper outlining how we have approached the establishment of our national chemical weapons convention secretariat, and we will look forward to the document that our Czechoslovak colleague has foreshadowed earlier this morning giving us details of Czechoslovakia's experiences in the same area.

During 1990 under the able leadership of Ambassador Hyltenius, good progress was made in cleaning up the "rolling text" in a way which makes it internally more consistent, concise and readable. One major impediment to the cleaning-up process and to substantive progress in the negotiations has been a large number of unattributed footnotes, in many cases their authorship now unknown and *raison d'être* forgotten as the years of negotiating have rolled on. In the past the CD tradition, as I understand it, was not to attribute footnotes. The state of the negotiations is now, I believe, such that it would be useful to be able to identify the originators of footnotes in order to facilitate their removal if there is no reason for them to remain, or to help us understand more fully the authors' thinking in order to find a solution as these negotiations conclude. In brief, we propose that all delegations use the first session of this year's work in the Ad Hoc Committee on Chemical Weapons to identify footnotes they have inserted in the "rolling text" and to transmit these to the secretariat for compilation and distribution to all the participants. The secretariat could also assist if it is able to identify old footnotes to the extent that its records permit it do so. Any footnotes not so "claimed" should simply be deleted. Once this process has been completed, we would be in a much better position to tackle in a more purposeful way the substance of the remaining attributed footnotes.

Another matter which is of great concern to the Australian Government is that the provisions of the treaty relating to the destruction of existing chemical weapons should ensure there is a clear commitment to environmentally safe procedures. Our view is that the provisions of the convention should be developed on this point. This is a particular concern to Australia and to