

(Mr. Velayati, Islamic Republic of Iran)

Let me conclude by reiterating that the effects of the current crisis in the Persian Gulf will go beyond the region, although its consequences for future stability and security in the region itself will be immense and long-lasting. In reality, this crisis will determine whether political or military solutions will prevail in international affairs. One way or another, both parties have chosen the military option, which in fact will only be a lost game. Our individual and joint efforts should all be directed at reversing this trend and generating the necessary political will to prevent the catastrophe from gaining further momentum. My country will spare no effort in this regard.

Mr. HYLTEINIUS (Sweden): I have listened with great interest to the important statement just made by His Excellency the Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Islamic Republic of Iran. I am sure that it will be read with great interest in many capitals, including my own.

My delegation today wishes to introduce document CD/1053 on "Verification of the chemical industry within the general pattern of verification of a chemical weapons convention".

The proposal contained in CD/1053 is already well known to all delegations. A first version was circulated for consultations to all groups and China in November. My delegation made a special presentation in the Group of 21, and was gratified also to be invited to the Group of Western States for a detailed discussion. Delegations from all groups and several observer delegations approached us during the inter-sessional period to obtain clarifications and share their preliminary views. By and large my delegation has been encouraged to proceed and to develop the ideas contained in the consultation paper.

In elaborating the new document, which is now before you, we have thus been able to draw on a considerable amount of comments from a large number of delegations. I would like to take this opportunity to thank those delegations that have spent time studying our proposal and conveying their views and questions to us. The amendments and additions that have been made to the paper are mainly aimed at clarifying a number of points, but a few substantive additions have also been made. The fact that the basic approach of the paper has not been questioned by any delegation that has studied it in detail gives us good hope that the paper will be given serious consideration in the work of the Ad Hoc Committee on Chemical Weapons.

Against this background any further introduction may be superfluous. Still, I would like to make some general comments. First, I would like to state what this paper is not. It is not a tactical proposal for the purpose of unlocking the apparent stalemate in discussions on verification in the chemical industry. My delegation has for a long time had doubts regarding the cost-effectiveness of schedule 2 verification as provided for in the draft convention. These doubts have matured over the years. The intense