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WORKING PAPER

Dismantling of Production Facilities/Means of
Production for Chemical Weapons

One of the most important measures for the complete prohibition and total destruction of chemical weapons and the prevention of chemical warfare is the prohibition of producing chemical weapons and the dismantling of their existing production facilities/means of production. This is because the industrial production of chemical weapons accounts for the most crucial link among the various activities aimed at the attainment of chemical warfare capability and the use of chemical weapons, i.e. development, production, stockpiling, acquisition and transfer of chemical weapons. Only those countries which can produce chemical weapons on a certain industrial scale are able to stockpile and transfer these weapons as well as to engage in chemical warfare. This has been proven by the history of the two World Wars. Therefore, the Chinese Delegation is of the opinion that:

1. The convention for the prohibition of chemical weapons, besides prohibiting in clear terms the production of chemical weapons, should stipulate the total dismantling of all types of their production facilities/means of production, rather than the shutting down and the conversion of those facilities. The Chinese Delegation has already indicated in Working Paper CD/102 that "shutting down the facilities for the production of chemical weapons or converting them to peaceful production is not the best approach". The measures of converting the production facilities for chemical weapons to peaceful use is loaded with the potential risk of their reconversion, since the plants thus converted can easily be reconverted to the production of chemical weapons and this will increase the work load of verification and make it more difficult. If it is argued that the dismantling of production facilities for chemical weapons could take years, and that an interim measure is required, we can agree to consider the use of the method of shutting down the facilities as an auxiliary measure of supervision.