

Mr. HUSLID (Norway): Mr. President, permit me at the outset to congratulate you, the distinguished representative of Ethiopia, on your assumption of the presidency of the Conference on Disarmament for the month of July.

I have asked for the floor today to introduce -- and I consider this as a special honour -- to introduce on behalf of Canada and my own country, Norway, a concrete proposal in connection with the negotiations on the chemical weapons convention. These negotiations have also just been extensively dealt with by my Finnish colleague, and I am grateful for the positive comments he made on the research made by the two countries. The proposal I have the honour to introduce is contained in document CD/766, of 2 July 1987, which concerns procedures for verification of alleged use of chemical weapons.

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While verification of compliance with the convention will be primarily based on data reporting and inspections, it is in our view, important to have available, as a complement, methods which can reliably detect and identify atmospheric releases of chemical agents regardless of source.

Since air monitoring facilities are also needed for surveillance of ambient air for reasons of environmental protection, it would not, in our view, be necessary to establish a monitoring network solely for the purpose of chemical weapons verification provided that the facilities are designed with both purposes in mind. We will shortly present a working paper to this Conference on this aspect of air monitoring.

Recent important reports recently produced by the Finnish Project on Verification of Chemical Disarmament, by the Institute for Energy and Environmental Research, in February 1987, have provided a number of studies on the potential applications of air monitoring technology in the context of verifying a biological weapons convention. These studies, which report from a number of countries, provide a detailed overview of the weapons negotiation process. The proposals of the working paper have just been circulated to the Conference on Disarmament in document CD/766. They were introduced in the 30th session of the Conference on 2 July 1987.

We in Finland appreciate the work done on verification of arms control verification in many countries, and we are glad to be a part of the CD talks. We have followed with interest the progress of the negotiations on verification of alleged use of chemical weapons since it was initiated in 1980. We are also aware of the important work in this area which is being carried out by Canada.

May I take this opportunity to thank the representatives of Canada and Norway for the valuable meetings they organized in Oslo, Norway, in the month of May. We found the Outer Space Workshop in particular as well as the Oslo Symposium on the Chemical Weapons Convention most informative on the issues concerned.