

(Mr. van Schaik, Netherlands)

to the work by introducing a stiff time schedule, by organizing informal consultations and in many other ways. The Conference indeed owes a lot to Pierre Morel for reinvigorating the negotiating process.

It is perhaps too early to take stock of progress made. We find ourselves in the middle of a negotiating process, the outcome of which is partly uncertain. But it is clear that important work has been done and that we are moving forward. However, we cannot deny that some major outstanding issues have not been resolved and that we have not yet reached the "point of no return".

Let me first mention some of the achievements. On important details we have made progress, and on some substantial issues the road has been paved for later success. The structure of the convention has improved, consisting now of a shorter main body with core provisions and separate annexes with detailed specifications. Protocols on confidentiality and inspection procedures have been worked out. A new annex on chemicals covers all questions related to chemical agents under international monitoring. We hope progress will be made by consolidating the text and inserting all results in appendix I or Appendix II of the "rolling text", for further consideration during the inter-sessionals.

National trial inspections, carried out on a broad basis, have deepened our insight into the complexities and pitfalls of the inspection régime and have, at the same time, strengthened confidence that all of this will in the end be feasible. A useful special working group on instrumentation has been set up under Ms. Marjatta Rautio of Finland; a non-member of the CD that has done outstanding work on developing the technical tools for the future inspectorate.

We also draw courage from the successful outcome of the eleventh round of bilateral consultations between the United States and the Soviet Union, and we look forward to more detailed information on the results. We welcome the fact that this month the next round of these consultations will take place. We have noted that in that context the Soviet Union offered on-the-spot inspection of existing stocks and facilities before the initialling of the convention, be it supposedly under a certain time constraint. We look forward to more information from the two delegations on these issues too. Indeed, they should not hide their light under a bushel.

In spite of such commendable achievements, we have not yet witnessed breakthroughs on remaining major issues. It sometimes appears to us that inspiration is still lacking to tackle the formidable hurdles that lie on the road towards definite success.

Of course, we should not become impatient. In particular for those who have been associated with the negotiations for a long time - in my delegation one has participated for 20 years - it is sometimes difficult to accept the slow pace at which we proceed. But what is more important, the momentum in the negotiations should not be lost. Therefore, these weeks are crucial, not only for the overall assessment of progress made, but also for the perspectives of our work when it continues in the inter-sessional period.