

(Mr. Morel, France)

strengthen the credibility of the convention and encourage States to accede. But let me add above all that the provisions related to verification, and the destruction of security stocks and the sole production facility referred to above, clearly show that these provisions do not in any way encourage acquisition of a CW capability. The limited option proposed contains binding and very stringent provisions. Far from encouraging proliferation, the instrument we have suggested introduces clarity and equity in the relations between all the States parties in the decisive period of the first 10 years of implementation of the convention.

Having thus set out the principal reasons which led us to put this document before the Conference, we are aware of the fact that the provisions suggested for security stocks may have certain relatively new elements. But we would also like to recall that France put this question before the Conference for its attention as much as two years ago. To date it has not been possible to embark on a detailed discussion of this issue, and so it is essential to do so today, because the problem cannot be avoided.

We also know that security stocks are not the only important issue that has not been dealt with so far: much remains to be done, for example, in defining super-toxic lethal substances, on guarantees, which have been wisely raised by the delegation of Pakistan, or on the strictly industrial aspects of the convention.

None of these issues in our view is of such central importance in the structure of the convention as that of security stocks. Without constantly assured security there will be no stable, credible and lasting convention. It would be better to deal with this issue before concluding negotiations and do this in an open-minded way, with great clarity of approach, so as to arrive at a workable mechanism which will be the best guarantee of the success of the convention, rather than leaving it until afterwards, in an atmosphere of uncertainty and distrust.

And in order to dispel misunderstanding, in order to avoid the repetition of unfounded allegations such as those that have appeared in the press recently, I would like to conclude by reiterating vigorously that our goal is the complete elimination of chemical weapons, as our Prime Minister recalled recently in Moscow: "The day when there is a verified disappearance of chemical weapons, we will be the first to destroy our own: I can make this formal commitment: we will be at zero level at the same time as the others."

This is the best way to sum up the proposal we have just made, which we hope will be considered by the Conference with all the attention it deserves.