

US in 1984 had called for "anytime-anywhere" inspection. In 1991, the US began moving away from this position due to the high level of intrusiveness it required. In July 1991, the US presented a completely new proposal for challenge inspection to the CD, which backtracked considerably from the degree of intrusiveness envisaged under "anytime- anywhere" inspections. The new US idea gave states the right to refuse to allow inspections at sensitive non-chemical weapons facilities, but provide for other methods to be used at the perimeter of a site; this would ease inspectors concerns about the purpose and use of the facility. Rather than allow such inspections on very short notice (i.e. 48 hours) the US proposal also lengthened the time allowed between the request for an inspection and an actual inspection.

On 19 March 1992, in an effort to provide an impetus to the negotiations, Australia presented a new draft compromise text to the CD. It incorporated the Rolling Text under discussion at the CD and included proposed text in areas where agreement had not yet been achieved. While the Rolling Text structure reflected years of negotiation, it was overly cumbersome and difficult in some areas. The fresh and more straightforward structure of the compromise text provided an opportunity for an "accelerated refinement" of the text with a view to developing a consensus text as soon as feasible.

On the question of challenge inspection, the Australian text moved back towards the idea of "managed access" within a short timeframe. Australia also proposed that the executive council meet at the time of a challenge inspection to ensure that the system was not being abused. The US did not respond wholeheartedly to the Australian ideas on challenge inspection but did undertake another revision of its position. In May 1992, the US and France put forward a new proposal for inspection. While the new proposal did not bring the US back to its original idea of "anytime-anywhere," it did mark a new US acceptance of the managed access idea with access to facilities as a requirement not an option. This latest shift in the US position, building on the Australian text, opened the way for a final push towards a consensus text. During July, individual member stages of the CD, including the US, began giving a draft text (developed in June) their approval as final text. This paved the way for the CD to agree as a whole to a complete and final text later in the summer.

At the regional level, on 5 September 1991, Argentina, Brazil and Chile signed the Mendoza Accord². Under the terms of the Accord the three states pledge not to develop, produce, acquire, stockpile

² Joint Declaration on the Complete Prohibition of Chemical and Biological Weapons. Mendoza Accord. Mendoza, 5 September 1991.