

(Mr. Sharma, India)

How would these principles translate into approaches to resolve the outstanding issues? The open-ended consultations carried out by Ambassador Morel on the subject of challenge inspection indicate that we are working on the right track. However, it is necessary to bear in mind that once a request for challenge inspection is received by the international organization created, the area of interest is enlarged and becomes a concern of all States parties. All States parties then are legitimately involved in seeking reassurance that the convention is being upheld. The multilateral character of challenge inspection therefore needs to be ensured if these concerns and the universal interest in upholding the convention are to be met. On the subject of the composition of the Executive Council we have also had useful preliminary discussions. It is clear that the Executive Council will be small in size, much smaller in size than the Conference of States Parties. All States parties have a right to be represented in the Executive Council, and furthermore, during the period that they are not present on the Executive Council, they must feel that the Executive Council is representative of the various interests that are reflected in the Conference of States Parties. In our view, all member States represented on the Executive Committee should enjoy equal rights and obligations. However, it is likely that in practice certain States parties will serve more frequently on the Executive Council than other States parties in the implementation of the criteria accepted, which cannot be seen to detract from the basic principle of equitable geographical balance, the principle of non-discrimination and the need for universal adherence.

I am sure we all share the sense of urgency and realize that the CW negotiations are at a critical stage. If we look at other disarmament negotiations, we realize that any slow-down can be a serious set-back to our efforts. At the same time, CW negotiations are but part of the agenda of the Conference on Disarmament. The nuclear issues, which enjoy the highest priority, also need to be addressed, and Conference resources allocated to them. We hope, therefore, that taking this priority into account, the Conference on Disarmament will set itself a time frame within which to conclude its negotiations on a CW convention. Setting a time frame would provide the necessary political thrust for concluding our work during the 1990 session.