

(Mr. Morel, France)

... As agreed at the last meeting of the summer part of the Conference's session, the Ad hoc Committee held open-ended consultations from 28 November to 14 December 1989, followed by a session of limited duration during the period from 11 January to 1 February 1990. This work led to a new version of the "rolling text" (CD/961), which I have the honour to introduce today. Before putting forward a few ideas at the end of a year as Chairman, I should like to comment point by point on the results of this inter-sessional period, which has been very useful in that, in keeping with established practice, it has enabled us largely to put the finishing touches to work already begun during the session itself. Six documents which are new or have been redrafted since the previous report have thus been drawn up.

First of all, the Protocol on inspection procedures. The agreement on a new text - which from now on, in the new version of the "rolling text", replaces the former "Guidelines on the international inspectorate" - rounds off several years of intensive work under the competent guidance of successive group chairmen, and this year particularly the Chairman of Group 1, Mr. Rüdiger Lüdeking, with very active support from many delegations. This commitment was legitimate given what was at stake, namely the development of one of the fundamental tools of the draft convention - verification. I think I can say without exaggeration that, imperfect and incomplete though it may be, this new text represents one of the important achievements of the 1989 session. We now have an outline of a code regulating the practical arrangements for inspections, the precise conduct of inspectors in terms of their rights and duties, and the obligations of States. The structure adopted enables us to draw a precise distinction between general provisions in the area of inspection procedures and specific aspects within the context of various types of inspection. Where the former are concerned, the new text contributes invaluable elements in the area of definitions and, more generally, a more structured presentation in terms of the successive stages of the inspection. As regards routine inspections, important clarifications have been added on the use of continuous monitoring systems.

The work on challenge inspections has enabled us to develop the concept of managed access, particularly in respect of the requirements of confidentiality, and to outline the role of the observer of the requesting State. Finally, a few basic elements, which should be of use for further study of the question, have been incorporated into the procedures governing cases of the alleged use of chemical weapons.

Secondly, the final clauses have been completed, with article XIV, on duration and withdrawal, article XVIII, on the deposit of instruments of ratification and accession, and article XX, on languages and authentic texts, which thus round off the overall structure of the convention as it appears in appendix I of the report. In this way, thanks to the Chairman of Group 2,

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