

general agreement, which is reflected in the draft Convention, regarding the destruction of all CW stocks by the end of the tenth year after the Convention enters into force and, as regards the fulfilment of that objective, it has been considered appropriate to divide all CW stocks into categories and to compare chemicals within categories by weight.

Taking into account the discussions at the negotiations, it seems possible to concretize the proposal by establishing the following categories of CW stocks:

Category I - chemical weapons based on Schedule [I] chemicals;

Category II - chemical weapons based on any other chemicals;

Category III - unfilled munitions and devices and equipment, specifically designed for employment in connection with the use of chemical weapons.

Such a grouping and the possibility of comparing chemicals by weight would give States parties to the Convention which possess chemical weapons a certain freedom with respect to the order of destruction of the various types of these weapons.

Security during the period of destruction of stocks should be based on, above all, the immediate cessation of CW production in compliance with the basic obligations under the Convention, the declaration by States parties possessing chemical weapons not later than 30 days after the Convention enters into force for them of the size and location of all CW stocks, the verification of the credibility of such declarations, and the placing of the stocks under systematic international control precluding any covert activity in their regard. That would create complete transparency regarding the stocks and confidence concerning the prevention of any action detrimental to the security of any of the States parties to the Convention.

Moreover, such completeness of information on CW stocks right from the Convention's entry into force would make it possible to work out and co-ordinate plans for the destruction of chemical weapons that took into account the principle of levelling-out, whereby, without prejudice to the principle of undiminished security for all States at all stages of destruction, States possessing chemical weapons would be left after the Convention had been in force for an agreed length of time with approximately equal quantities of such weapons, to be destroyed by the tenth year of operation of the Convention. These timeframes and the amounts of the remaining stocks are to be agreed upon in the course of the negotiations.

The declaration of stocks by the States participating in the negotiations at this stage would considerably further the solution of the problem of the order of destruction of CW stocks.