

(Mr. Hyltenius, Sweden)

situations must be elaborated with great care. They may otherwise, for instance, compromise fundamental political principles of countries with a policy of neutrality, like Sweden.

Over the last few months an important number of countries have carried out national trial inspections. My delegation finds it very encouraging indeed to note the broad participation in these inspection activities. We welcome the fact that additional countries are preparing for such inspections. These activities permit concrete familiarization with the provisions of the "rolling text", and also serve to widen the circle of people and institutions in each country that get directly involved with the practical issues regarding implementation of the future convention.

As Chairman of the open-ended consultations I have reported on the current situation in documents CD/CW/WP.236 and 237. The first evaluation made during these consultations demonstrated that, although certain provisions in the "rolling text" will need further elaboration, the system provided for in the draft convention constitutes a sound basis for a routine inspection régime. It is the view of my delegation that the momentum must not be lost and that planning should be initiated for the next stage - multilateral trial inspections. In this context, Sweden welcomes the announcement by the German Democratic Republic that a plant has already been selected for a multilateral trial inspection. The next stage should be carefully planned in order to give tangible results of relevance for the draft convention. Also, those delegations which are still in the process of preparing for national trial inspections should be given the opportunity to present their results to the Committee. In the view of my delegation, the Ad hoc Committee would be well advised to start detailed consultations on preparations which may be necessary in order to embark on a multilateral stage of trial inspections as soon as possible.

Before concluding I should like to make a few brief comments on the forthcoming Canberra conference on chemical weapons. Let me first note that a comprehensive solution, a chemical weapons convention, is within close reach. Interim measures, which may sometimes be useful, may at this advanced stage of our negotiations even be counter-productive. All efforts must instead be concentrated on concluding the convention at the earliest date.

The Canberra conference has the potential of contributing positively to that goal, if the dialogue between governments and industries of participating countries takes as the starting-point the need to ensure both the free and non-discriminatory exchange of chemicals and technology for peaceful purposes and the need for effective verification of the total prohibition of chemical weapons, within the overall framework of the convention. In that context it will be a useful contribution if that conference increases the awareness of the chemical industry of the implications of the coming convention and promotes co-operation by the industry in its implementation.

A dialogue between governments and the chemical industry may certainly serve a useful purpose, not least because a considerable measure of co-operation on the part of the latter will be required to establish an