

(Mr. Berg, Norway)

A new convention must, in our view, contain provisions for adequate verification, to which we hope to make a modest contribution. The Norwegian participant in the expert meetings of the Working Group on Chemical Weapons has initiated a research programme on the sampling and identification of chemical warfare agents used under winter conditions. The objective of the programme is, inter alia, to develop international verification procedures for the purpose of finding evidence of the use of chemical agents. The results of this research project will be submitted to the Committee on Disarmament.

In concluding I should like to mention that we have recently strengthened our representation in Geneva in order to enable the Norwegian Government to follow more closely the activities of the Committee on Disarmament. Thus, for the first time, we will take an active part in all the working groups of the Committee on Disarmament.

Through our participation, we shall endeavour also to draw on the expertise available at Norwegian research institutions in recognition of the key role played by the working groups in the negotiations here in Geneva.

Finally, I note that, at its present session, the Committee will once more discuss the membership question in preparation for the second special session and the review to be undertaken there. Norway, for its part, would favour yet another limited expansion of the present membership of the Committee on Disarmament. We believe that such a limited expansion would increase the representative nature of the Committee without hampering its efficiency or its negotiating character.

Should the second special session recommend another limited expansion, Norway will actively seek full membership of the Committee. This would be in keeping with our long-standing interest in arms control and disarmament -- an interest also influenced, as I said by way of introduction, by our strategic geographical location.

I would like to thank you for having accorded me this opportunity to address you this morning. In the name of my Government, I want to offer my sincerest wishes for the successful continuation of the Committee's important deliberations. I can assure you that Norway will continue to take part as an active observer in the work of this Committee and, with your permission, Mr. Chairman, may I add as my personal hope, that, in the not too distant future, a representative of Norway will have the privilege of addressing this Committee in the capacity of a full member.

The CHAIRMAN (translated from French): I thank the Norwegian State Secretary for Foreign Affairs for his important and interesting statement and am grateful to him for the kind words he addressed to the Chair. I have no more speakers on my list; would any other delegation like to take the floor? If not I would like to announce that, at my request, the Secretary has distributed today an informal document containing the timetable of meetings of the Committee and its subsidiary bodies for the coming week. As usual, this is only an indication and may subsequently be adjusted, if necessary, according to the requirements of our work. If there is no objection, I will take it that the Committee agrees to this timetable.

It was so decided.