

(Mr. Morel, France)

I would also mention that this year the Committee continued a large-scale exercise which was started last year, namely the launching of national trial inspections and the consideration of national reports. This work, which was first conducted under Ambassador Hyltenius of Sweden, whom I would like to thank for his personal contribution, was the subject of an informal exchange of views with experts from industry at the end of June and was then pursued, as agreed, under the Chairman of Group 1. Thanks to this initial multifaceted work in the field, in conditions as close as possible to reality, the Committee was able to confirm the practicability of the provisions of article VI and make various improvements in the convention. This is already the case with the new version of the model agreement for facilities handling schedule 2 chemicals. Many more lessons can be drawn from these trial inspections, which should continue on a broader scale and be organized by other countries. I would finally add here that the Committee directly tackled one of the most sensitive issues in the future convention, namely challenge inspection. Intensive consultations conducted by the Chair made it possible to identify in a precise way those essential elements which will have to be contained in article IX, part 2, which, as everybody acknowledges, will be as it were the key stone of the general system of verification under of the convention.

Legal questions may be better defined, but are no less difficult to deal with. Appendix I now contains a series of final clauses; these are articles XV to XIX, which derive from the consultations conducted last year, together, in appendix II, with the results of the work done on the delicate issue of amendments, and elements to be taken up on relationships with other international agreements, duration and withdrawal, languages, depositaries and registration. The group also dealt with the very important question of sanctions, which had never been dealt with as such, and is of interest to a great number of delegations. The document which appears at the end of appendix II provides a good basis for further work on this subject.

The work of Group 3, on institutional matters, made it possible to update articles VII and VIII of the convention and thus to confirm the tripartite framework under the future convention, that is to say the Conference of the States Parties, the Executive Council and the technical secretariat. The same can be said for the document on the preparatory commission, which will have the task of establishing the future organization after signature and before entry into force. Going beyond the actual text, national trial inspections also made it possible to highlight the precise role to be played by the national authority which will be set up in each country to institute and maintain liaison with the technical secretariat. In the same way, the Ad hoc Committee started to examine very specifically, with the assistance of experts, the question of the costs and the staffing of the future organization.

Group 3 also started studying the question of the scientific advisory board, which might provide the Director-General, and where necessary the other organs of the convention, with an independent opinion on rapidly evolving areas. Consultations conducted by the group, and then by the Chairman of the Committee, also made it possible to establish a hypothetical working framework on the composition and decision-making procedures of the Executive Council. There is no need to stress that these issues, which for a long time were left on one side, are of great political importance. Agreement will no doubt only be reached towards the end of the negotiations; but to arrive stage by stage