

(Mr. von Stulpnagel, Federal Republic of Germany)

we should discuss whether the notion of alternative measures is not outdated, and whether the concerns underlying this concept are not already covered by measures designed to protect sensitive equipment and information and, in particular, by what is now understood as constituting managed access.

At the end of last year we conducted another trial challenge inspection, which focused in particular on the methods and equipment needed in a challenge inspection. I hope soon to be able to provide a report on this trial inspection as well. We have planned further trial challenge inspections in order to gain a better insight into the possibilities of protecting sensitive installations, and also with a view to answering the question of the role of the observer of the requesting State party and to what extent he should have access to the inspection site.

We are looking forward to an in-depth discussion of the problem of challenge inspections. We hope that this issue will be discussed matter-of-factly, with determination and realism. We should in all frankness explain our positions and also address those aspects which may pose difficulties. A problem-oriented, unbiased approach seems to me to be best at this juncture. In concluding my statement today I wish to take this opportunity to pledge my delegation's full support for this year's Chairman of the Ad hoc Committee, Ambassador Hyltenius. I am confident that with his experience and diplomatic skills he can lead the way, together with his dedicated collaborators and his able working group chairmen, Mr. Lamazière, Mr. Meerburg and Dr. Krutzsch, to the early conclusion of a chemical weapons convention.

Mr. WAGENMAKERS (Netherlands):

... I would like to make a short statement on behalf of the Western Group. I welcome the presence here of so many participants in the Women's Meeting for International Women's Day. We listened with great interest to the message addressed to the CD. Once more it was brought out that our Conference does not work in a vacuum - we are not a world in itself; we serve the world. We are aware of the expectations of the world community, and I would like to bring out our awareness of the recent changes in the world, the many positive changes in all parts of the world and also in Europe after the revolutionary year 1989, which adds to the topical relevance of our work in the Conference on Disarmament. Indeed, the Western Group attaches high priority to the early