

(Mr. Elbe, Federal Republic of Germany)

Notwithstanding this general rule, other precursors could be treated as key precursors if, within the meaning of the convention, they constitute a risk and if the competent body under the convention reaches agreement on this point. The designated key precursors would be listed and annexed to the convention.

We consider the combination of a definition of key precursors -- based on objective criteria -- and the application of the exception-from-the-rule principle to be a reasonable instrument providing sufficient flexibility for the purposes of the convention.

As far as supertoxic lethal chemicals and their precursors for which there is no civilian use are concerned, an explicit ban would appear to suggest itself. Such a ban should be included explicitly in a list and ought to cover any quantities in excess of a production of one metric ton per annum.

It goes without saying that key precursors for multi-component weapons for which there is no permitted use would equally have to be included in the list of banned substances. I am saying this with such explicit clarity because one delegation recently expressed the view in this forum that there were some delegations "seeking to brush aside the problem of binary weapons". My delegation, however, was unable to identify any such delegation in our midst.

As for the scope of inspections, my delegation holds the view that the intensity of inspection procedures must be such as to ensure to an adequate degree of certainty that compliance with the contractual undertaking not to produce chemical weapons is systematically and internationally verifiable.

Inspections of key precursors should be conducted on the basis of annual statistical data and on-site inspections if the total annual quantity produced exceeds one metric ton.

To ensure that the manufacturers of the key precursors in question receive equal treatment, on-site inspections should be carried out on a random basis. Companies should be determined by lot, with a competent body under the convention fixing every year the percentage of all firms to be subjected to inspections. The inspection, consisting of statistical data, the review of plant records, interviews, viewing of facility areas, as well as sampling and analysis, must ensure reliable verification of the non-production of chemical weapons.

We are quite certain that an effective monitoring régime can be established without violating the legitimate interests of the chemical industry and without disclosure of secret technological and industrial information.

My delegation expresses the hope that the present Working Paper CD/627 will contribute to facilitating the ongoing negotiations on the elaboration of an adequate system of international verification of non-production of chemical weapons.