

(Mr. Frøysnes, Norway)

Energetic efforts should now be made to prepare a draft convention at the earliest date. An important problem area involves solving the basic procedures for on-site inspections. Another major unsolved question refers to non-production of chemical weapons. Verification of non-production of chemical weapons should in principle be based on routine on-site inspections and data exchange under the auspices of the Consultative Committee. In this regard we would welcome the detailed proposals put forward by the Minister of State of the United Kingdom, Mr. Luce, in his statement on 12 March and I would add that Norway has already submitted data to the Conference on Disarmament concerning civil uses of key components in the chemical field, or so-called key precursors.

In five days we shall see the tenth anniversary of the entry into force of the Biological Weapons Convention. In Article IX of the Convention it is stated inter alia that each State Party undertakes to continue negotiations in good faith with a view to reaching early agreement on effective measures for the prohibition of chemical weapons. The thirty-ninth session of the General Assembly decided on the basis of a Norwegian initiative to hold the second Review Conference of the Biological Weapons Convention in Geneva in 1986. The holding of that Review Conference further underlines the urgency of the on-going negotiations on a chemical weapons convention.

May I assure you that Norway will continue her research on verification questions relevant to a chemical weapons convention. It is our intention to present a new working paper, based on the results of the research this year, at the second part of the Conference's 1985 session.

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(Mr. Lowitz, United States)

Here in the Conference on Disarmament we are negotiating a global ban on chemical weapons. In this connection, Vice-President Bush re-affirmed our commitment by tabling a draft convention in the Conference last April. We are still awaiting a serious and positive response to our initiative from those who have had little to offer so far but criticism.