

(Mr. Hyltenius, Sweden)

consideration. According to the view of my delegation, some of them reflect an earlier stage of our negotiations. The question might, therefore, well be asked whether all of them are relevant or even necessary.

It should finally be noted that one crucial issue covered by Working Groups 4 and 5 offers another important opportunity for initiatives from the two major chemical weapons possessors, namely the order of destruction. On this key issue the Committee has now been at a virtual standstill for a whole year. It is obvious that no other delegation has the know-how and experience to make a decisive contribution to the resolution of this matter.

Working Group 5 has greatly benefited from the long experience and sense of purpose of its Chairman, Dr. Krutzsch of the German Democratic Republic. However, the issues under consideration in the Group are complex and do not easily lend themselves to structured discussions or concrete proposals. One such issue is covered by the heading "universality". The task of the CD in this connection is to elaborate a convention which in a balanced manner takes account of the legitimate concerns and interests of all nations. It is Sweden's view that the Conference, with the scope for non-members to contribute actively to our negotiations, is sufficiently representative to permit the elaboration of a convention that can attract universal adherence. Let me in this context express my delegation's deep satisfaction that so many non-member countries have joined the chemical weapons negotiations. My delegation hopes that still more countries from relevant regions will demonstrate the same interest and be given the opportunity to participate.

The key to enhancing universal adherence to the convention would, in the view of Sweden, be the concept of non-discrimination. This is an abstract concept that might sound too ideological to be practical. In terms of the chemical weapons convention, however, it would contain some very precise and concrete elements. First, the convention must provide for equal rights and obligations of all States, whether they possess chemical weapons or not. Thus, the prohibition of the use of chemical weapons must be absolutely effective for all as of the entry into force of the convention. Second, the convention must provide for an effective system of verification giving reassurance to all States parties that the convention is being complied with. Third, the convention must ensure the unimpeded right of States parties to develop, produce, exchange, transfer and use chemicals and technology in the chemical field. Hence it is the view of Sweden that an effective way in the short term to ensure positive interest in the convention would be the immediate incorporation of article XI into the "rolling text", a view which is shared by the Group of 21 in its entirety. Fourth, the convention must ensure immediate and effective assistance in the case of use of chemical weapons against any State party.

Assistance in cases of perceived threat, however, is a moot question. Such provisions could in our view easily be abused and thus create unnecessary political confrontations in an organization whose smooth functioning is in the universal interest. Provisions for obligatory assistance in such unclear