

(Mr. Yamada, Japan)

(e) Consideration, with regard to the organizational aspects, of the preparatory commission and of guidelines on the international inspectorate.

I wish to express the high appreciation of my delegation for these results which have opened new ground, to help us through this complex and advanced stage of the negotiations. I wish to call upon all delegations to maintain the momentum of the spring part of this session and to build upon it, so that we may be able to conclude the convention at the earliest opportunity, thus meeting the fervent expectation of the international community.

As the negotiations get more complex -- as they are at present -- it is all the more important never to lose sight of what the basic objectives of the chemical weapons convention are. These objectives are: first, "destruction", namely the destruction of existing chemical weapons and related production facilities; and second, "non-production", namely the prohibition of the future development or production of chemical weapons. These two objectives of "destruction" and "non-production" are inseparable, as it were the two wheels of a cart. They must occupy balanced places in the convention régime. I must also emphasize that our work is to ban chemical weapons. Nothing else. We must not create impediments to the legitimate activities and development of the chemical industry for peaceful purposes, which advances the welfare and the standard of living of mankind.

My delegation attaches significant importance to the destruction of existing chemical weapons and related facilities. Japan possesses no chemical weapons and has no intention of acquiring them. By adhering to the convention, she legally binds herself as a non-chemical-weapon State, while chemical-weapon States have 10 years to dispose of their chemical weapons. For the security of my country, it is indispensable that all the existing chemical weapons and production facilities be placed, from the beginning of the entry into force of the convention, under strict international control and be eliminated according to the internationally agreed formula.

As I have already stated, we were able to agree on a framework of the detailed procedures for destruction of chemical weapons in the course of the spring part of this session. I would like to note that we have the following common understandings on this important issue:

(a) The chemical weapons to be destroyed shall be all chemical weapons "under the jurisdiction or control of a State Party, regardless of location",

(b) All chemical weapons shall be destroyed "beginning not later than 12 months and finishing not later than 10 years",

(c) States parties may destroy their stocks at a faster pace,

(d) Chemical weapons shall be destroyed only at specifically designated and appropriately designed and equipped facility(ies).

And, with regard to the verification measures: