

(Ms Theorin, Sweden)

A number of problems remain and must now be addressed vigorously. One is the régime for declaring and verifying existing stockpiles of chemical weapons. Another is the search for an effective, but not excessive system for international challenge inspections. The general narrowing of positions on verification that has been demonstrated lately should help to facilitate agreement on this issue. A third major problem is verification of future non-production of chemical weapons. Steps have been taken towards generally acceptable verification régimes applicable to different categories of chemicals. Such a verification system should, of course, not hamper legitimate activities of the chemical industry. Other important problems to be solved are questions related to the functioning of the Consultative Committee and its organs, including the Executive Council and the Technical Secretariat.

I would like to take this opportunity to congratulate the Committee Chairman during the past session, Ambassador Cromartie, of the United Kingdom, for his energetic and efficient performance of this function, characterized by his deep insight in the field. The continued work should be organized in a most effective way, corresponding to the requirements of this stage of the negotiating process. I rest assured that all members of the Conference will actively support efforts to speed up the negotiation to make possible an early conclusion of a convention.