

(Mr. Karhilo, Finland)

is against the interests and will of the owners of that technology. However, nothing in the convention should prevent the transfer of technology for permitted purposes. Under the convention the verification régime is for the purpose of ultimately verifying that the technologies and chemicals are not used illegitimately.

We clearly understand that the inclusion of this kind of a provision in the convention is important to the nations whose chemical industry is in the early stages of development. As a confidence-builder it is comparable to the value some other countries, including my own, attach to the verification provisions. The export controls that many countries are preparing or already imposing on relevant chemicals and technologies should be regarded as necessary provisional measures. In the absence of a global ban the spread of chemical weapons and the widening availability of long-range delivery systems for them is everyone's concern. The spectre of long-range chemical warfare should not be allowed to go free. After the chemical weapons convention has come into force the importance of these controls will diminish. Their application to trade between the States parties could then be relaxed.

Universal adherence to the Convention is of utmost importance for it to be effective. The legitimate concerns and interests of all nations should be given equal attention during the negotiations. This can be done in two parallel ways without hampering the effectiveness of the Conference on Disarmament as the negotiating body. First, all countries willing to make an active contribution should be encouraged to do so. The observer countries here in the CD should make full use of this opportunity to put forward their views and have them duly reflected in the process. The number of observers has grown considerably since earlier years, and we hope that this trend will continue. Secondly, efforts should be made to inform those countries which, for different reasons, cannot participate in the negotiations even as observers. In this field we acknowledge the valuable work done by Australia in promoting regional awareness about chemical weapons issues.

I would like to turn now to some more detailed and technical aspects of the convention. Earlier I touched upon some general aspects of the verification of compliance with the convention. However, verification does not only involve working out the necessary procedures in the convention itself. The development of reliable technical methods and instruments to carry out the specific verification tasks that those procedures entail is equally important. Moreover, this work is continuous and requires constant attention, testing, research and improvement in all the fields connected with the inspection activities.

It is precisely these aspects of CW verification to which Finland has devoted considerable efforts and resources since 1973. Our research project is conducted by a team of scientists and financed by the Finnish Ministry for Foreign Affairs. The Project develops instrumental methods for detection, identification and analysis of chemical warfare agents. The results of this work, as we know, have been presented to the Conference on Disarmament in the form of handbook-type annual reports, the Finnish Blue Books. The latest