

(Mr. Andreotti, Italy)

whose consequences have a direct impact on the entire subject-matter of the Convention. As of now, we favour the setting up of groups of experts, limited in their composition, for the thorough examination of this issue within a time-limit to be agreed upon.

The destruction of existing arsenals, too, presents problems to be solved in a reasonably short time. The clear political will of all the participants in the negotiation to provide for the global elimination of arsenals in a 10-year time span must now be translated into the establishment of detailed procedures and modalities. We also believe that all production must completely stop upon the conclusion of the Convention. On this point, a greater negotiating flexibility - always taking into account the legitimate security requirements of all - might allow us to overcome the existing obstacles on the basis of solutions envisaging a quicker rate of reduction for the larger arsenals.

In the third place, if we really want to enhance the credibility of the Convention, then we must see to it that - through a mechanism of rigorous verification - no diversion of commercial products towards possible military uses can occur. This question, which pertains to the field of verification, must be addressed and solved comprehensively.

I believe that these measures, of a general and not discriminatory nature, should not raise excessive preoccupations for the industries of the most advanced countries. On the contrary, the higher the level of industrial development of a country, the greater its responsibilities and moral commitment to avoid the incorrect use, domestically or externally, of its industrial capabilities.

I note with satisfaction that on the question of challenge inspections it has recently proved possible to achieve a considerable rapprochement between diverse positions, including those of the United States and the USSR. I therefore suggest that every possible effort be made so that the convergence which has been taking shape is extended and translated in timely fashion into the formulation of a text capable of securing general consensus.

Lastly, as regards the institutional and organizational structures which will be entrusted with the implementation of the Convention, Italy considers that they should first satisfy the criterion of effectiveness, and of adequate and equitable representation of all States.

If we do not wish to waste what we have achieved over the years, the time has now come to make a conclusive effort, which Hans-Dietrich Genscher and I myself, together with other colleagues, have come here to urge, also through a possible acceleration of the work of the Ad hoc Committee. Some have proposed reducing the intervals between sessions; others have suggested a permanent session. I would like to propose reviving the institution of the "Friends of the President", each of whom might be given a specific task. Or we might decide to set up as many working groups as there are articles in the Convention. At this point, a limited group might even be given the task of expeditiously formulating proposals on ways and means of productively