CONFERENCE ON DISARMAMENT

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Ad Hoc Committee on Chemical Weapons

JAPAN

Provision of Data relevant to the Chemical Weapons Convention

With a view to contributing to the progress of the negotiations on the Chemical Weapons Convention, Japan presents its industrial data in accordance with the basic ideas of document CD/828, the first important step initiated by the Federal Republic of Germany. The data were collected with the cooperation of the Japanese Chemical Industries Association. In preparing the provision of data, thresholds proposed by the United States of America in document CD/802 were taken into consideration. Although some additional information might be submitted at a later stage, the data below, concerning relevant chemical substances and facilities producing and consuming these substances, reflect by and large the situation in 1989 of the Japanese Chemical Industry.

Verification to be applied to the industrial activities relating to Article VI of the Draft Convention needs to be not only effective, but also efficient and reasonable with the available resources of the Technical Secretariat in mind. It is, therefore, very important to establish a practical verification system especially in the area of the "non-production of chemical weapons" since the verification of "non-production", which is applied to the economic activities of the rapidly-developing chemical industry, is supposed to last for long after even the ten-year destruction period.

In the course of the negotiations, we have been stressing the need for striking a proper balance between risks posed to the objectives of the Convention and costs for maintaining a verification system. We hope that our data, together with the data which were already provided, and which will be provided more in detail in future by other countries, will contribute to searching for such a balance and to establishing an appropriate verification system. In this context, further consideration may be required to improve the relevant parts of the present "Rolling Text" (CD/961), including the placement of some chemicals on schedules, thresholds, the size of the International Inspectorate and so forth.

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