Mrs. RAUTIO (Finland): Mr. President, may I begin by wishing you well in your important office? I am convinced that you will guide the Conference successfully through the final days of its present session and into the next session in 1989.

For several years, Finland has participated in the work of this important negotiating forum. I have asked for the floor today to introduce to you the second Finnish research report or "blue book" for 1988. This is the thirteenth report in the series on "Methodology and instrumentation for sampling and analysis in the verification of chemical disarmament". The first report of this year (CD/843) was introduced to the Ad hoc Committee on Chemical Weapons in the middle of July, and was entitled "Standard operating procedures for the verification of chemical disarmament; D.1 a proposal for procedures supporting the reference data base". The present report (CD/873) is entitled "Computer-aided techniques for the verification of chemical disarmament; E.1 verification data base". Copies of the report will be distributed to delegations together with my statement.

The future chemical weapons convention will demand extensive declarations and detailed plans from the States parties. Verification of the implementation of the convention will require a huge amount of exact and reliable reference data to be readily available to the technical secretariat. The verification process will continue throughout the lifetime of the convention, and will produce mountains of data and an unwieldy number of reports and documents. The management of all this must be such as to ensure reliability and confidentiality. For all these reasons we feel that computer-aided techniques are the only reasonable approach to the task.

In this report we look at the possibility of applying computerized techniques to the storage and handling of verification data. The computerized data base is referred to as the verification data base. The applicability of the different techniques currently available for data management is discussed, and ways of exploiting them are outlined.

We have constructed a prototype data base based on the relational data base technique for the storage of analytical reference data, that is, data which are needed to unambiguously identify chemical compounds using different

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