

(Mr. Hyltenius, Sweden)

main outstanding hurdles. It has now been overcome, and I especially thank Mr. Meerburg for his inventiveness and a good job done. Working Group B has also been able to elaborate further the schedules in the annex on chemicals, and to finalize the modalities for revision of schedules and guidelines. Moreover, considerable progress has been made on the issue of thresholds. Extremely useful material on low concentrations and on the "captive use" of listed chemicals has also been incorporated into appendix II.

Working Group C has made much headway on issues that were considered by most of us as major outstanding problems. We are particularly indebted to Dr. Krutzsch for his perseverance and enthusiasm. While the solutions to the issues of amendments, settlement of disputes and measures to redress a situation and to ensure compliance, including sanctions now incorporated into appendix I have not been finally elaborated, each of them constitutes a breakthrough not only technically but also politically. Finally, the material on "Financial aspects of the Organization" now in appendix II constitutes a valuable new basis for further work on an issue that is of major concern.

The open-ended consultations on article X (Assistance and protection against chemical weapons) continued during the inter-sessional period. Further progress was made, and it is my opinion that agreement is within reach on this important article. A Chairman's paper (CD/CW/WP.324) was issued as a basis for continued work. I am very grateful indeed to Ambassador García Moritán of Argentina and his deputy, Mr. Parini, for the very constructive and promising work undertaken on this issue.

Article XI is in my opinion another important part of the convention. I have conducted private consultations on this article during the whole year, and during the inter-sessional period I also held open-ended consultations on the matter. There is still no agreement on this, but the number of delegations which have reservations about including the draft text on the article in appendix I have diminished considerably.

The problem of old chemical weapons is now better analysed than before, but its solution still eludes us. I have the impression that further contacts on a bilateral basis between some of the countries particularly concerned will be necessary before it is possible to find an appropriate and generally acceptable solution in the multilateral context. I am most grateful to Ambassador Morel for his efforts and contributions as a Friend of the Chair in this difficult field. The outcome of the work on this matter is reflected in appendix II.

I am pleased to report that the problem of jurisdiction and control has been brought much closer to solution this year. A new text on "General undertakings" in article VII has been included in appendix I. A few references to this concept remain in the "rolling text", but I am convinced that they can be addressed without too much difficulty now that the general undertakings have been agreed. This is due to the energetic work done by Ambassador Reese and Mr. Morris of Australia, who conducted consultations on this issue on my behalf. I wish to express my warm thanks for their successful endeavours.