

The CHAIRMAN: I thank you. I now give the floor to the representative of the United Kingdom, Ambassador Summerhayes, who will introduce the working paper contained in document CD/244.

Mr. SUMMERHAYES (United Kingdom): Mr. Chairman, as you have just said, I have asked for the floor this morning to introduce document CD/244, which we have entitled "Verification and the Monitoring of Compliance in a Chemical Weapons Convention". We have put this document forward as a contribution under item 4 of our Committee's agenda. We tabled this new working paper to be available at the time when the Committee had just taken the decision to give a revised mandate to the Ad Hoc Working Group on Chemical Weapons. We look forward to the resumption of the Group's work later this week under the leadership of Ambassador Sujka of Poland and we hope that our paper, which we have also asked should be circulated as a working document under the symbol CD/CW/WP.26, will be considered in detail in that forum as soon as possible. We understand that all language versions will be available this evening.

I will not take up much of the Committee's time now in describing the substance of the working paper, but I think it is useful to do so very briefly. As I made clear in my opening statement on 11 February, my Government has had a long-standing commitment to the achievement of a comprehensive, effective and adequately verifiable ban on chemical weapons. We believe that verification is the central problem to be faced in drawing up a CW convention and that the Working Group will need to ensure that adequate attention is devoted to this key issue if we are to make progress. This is the reason why my delegation has concentrated on verification and compliance in the paper I have introduced; we are nevertheless very much aware that other important issues such as the definition of the scope of the convention will also need to be resolved and we hope that it will prove possible to work in tandem on these issues.

Perhaps I should now make a few explanatory remarks about document CD/244 which other delegations might find helpful in further considering our proposals.

The paper is set out in two sections: the first describes in the form of a memorandum the United Kingdom's view on the way in which a chemical weapons convention should be verified; the second sets out, in the form of draft elements, the type of provisions which a convention would need to include in order to fulfil the requirements set out in the first section of the paper. We will of course be happy to elaborate further upon the reasoning behind our proposals; the first section of document CD/244 gives a preliminary explanation of the provisions which are set out as what we have called draft elements.

In looking at the substance of document CD/244, delegations may find it helpful to know that we approach the verification of a chemical weapons convention from two directions: first, the verification of the destruction of stockpiles and, secondly, the verification of the non-production of chemical weapons, which we have called "monitoring of compliance". We have divided verification into these two separate categories because the different activities to be verified will need different monitoring techniques. Moreover, for the vast majority of countries which, of course, do not possess any stock of chemical weapons, only the second category of verification measures, that is, those relating to the monitoring of non-production, would come into force.