

14. Chairman's informal suggestions on a possible wording:

In view of the progress made in the discussions in the Open-ended Consultations, the Chairman believes that in order to facilitate further progress, an attempt should be made to reflect the main trends of the discussions so far in a set of wording which does not constitute a final draft. For that purpose, and without prejudice to the position of delegations, the Chairman suggested the following wording which shall not bind any delegations:

- (1) Each State party undertakes not to use herbicides as a method of warfare; such a prohibition should not preclude any other use of herbicides.
- (2) For the purpose of this Convention, herbicides mean chemical substances which, due to their purpose and direct effects, interfere with life processes of plants.
- (3) The provision of paragraph (1) shall not be interpreted as in any way impairing the applicable rules of international law pertaining to the use of herbicides.

Verification of the prohibition of the use of chemical weapons

15. Open-ended consultations on the question of verification of the prohibition of the use of chemical weapons were held, in which the report of the Co-ordinator of the consultations on the prohibition of the use of chemical weapons on the criteria for the objective and impartial verification of a prohibition of use of chemical weapons contained in annex II of CD/416 dated 22 August 1983 and the informal Working Paper of the Chairman of the Open-ended Consultations dated 8 July 1985 were used as basis for discussions.

16. There was an exchange of general views on certain aspects relating to the subject. In the course of the discussions, the Observer Delegation of Norway made a statement on its Working Paper contained in document CD/601 dated 20 June 1985. Substantive discussions had, however, hardly begun.

17. It is generally understood that provisions in the Convention for international verification by means of challenge procedure shall apply equally to complaints of the use of chemical weapons in violation of the Convention.

18. In view of the specific nature of the situations where chemical weapons are alleged to be or to have been used, several delegations were of the view that specific provisions in the Convention dealing with international verification of complaints on the use of chemical weapons were deemed appropriate. Such specific provisions should however be elaborated in close conjunction with the elaboration of provisions on verification as a whole, as some of those provisions might be equally applicable to the verification of the prohibition of the use of chemical weapons.

19. In discussing such specific provisions on verification of the prohibition of the use of chemical weapons - to constitute a part of a general régime of verification - several elements were mentioned:

- (a) the need for a short time limit for the commencement of an on-site investigation requested by a State Party, carried out by the Consultative Committee.