

(Mr. Loeis, Indonesia)

I now wish to refer to the question of the non-production of chemical weapons, a particular aspect of the convention which has been dealt with by international gatherings even during the preparation of the 1925 Geneva Protocol. Lengthy and painstaking negotiations on this question at that time finally resulted in the agreement which prohibits only the use of these weapons.

After the signing of the 1925 Geneva Protocol, subsequent activities unsuccessfully attempted to establish a régime for the regulation of the non-production of chemical weapons. Documentation on the elaboration of the 1925 Geneva Protocol and the negotiations to establish the future convention illustrate that it has always been possible to divert chemicals intended for peaceful purposes to weapon purposes.

Those exercises, as well as ours today, have shown the complexity of establishing a régime which could prevent any possible clandestine production of chemical weapons. Hence, if we wish to have a proper convention, the most viable way to prevent loopholes is the enforcement of a challenge inspection régime which could clear any doubts and which would disclose any act of non-compliance.

We notice that the essential elements necessary to arrive at concrete treaty language concerning the question of challenge inspection have been identified and discussed. They are now ready to be further negotiated in the Ad hoc Committee on Chemical Weapons. Challenge inspection, in my view, constitutes an ultimate source of confidence in the convention. It should be borne in mind, however, that recourse to it should be regarded as exceptional, and confidence in the convention should be built up, as far as possible, by other means which do not involve resort to an open expression of suspicion. An idea about verification measures based on an elaborate system of quotas has been tabled. This in my view, merits further consideration by the Ad hoc Committee, because the measure would grant the parties to the future convention the possibility of displaying their openness and their spirit of co-operation, thus reducing the need to conduct challenge inspections.