

(Mr. Lineham, New Zealand)

unhindered commercial operations of the industry, which will have to be taken fully into account. But the devising of procedures which meet such concerns should be seen as a positive and constructive process which will contribute to the objectives of the convention and not as an obstacle in the negotiations.

I would like, before concluding, to touch on some other developments in the Conference this year on the subject of chemical weapons. The New Zealand delegation would like to express particular appreciation to the Government of the Netherlands for the Workshop on the verification of the chemical weapons ban held in June this year and for making it possible for countries like my own to participate. This was, in our view, a superbly organized affair and we would further thank the Dutch delegation for its follow-up reports and willingness to enter into discussions, in the Committee, on the results of the Workshop. Similarly, as another practical reference point for the negotiations, we would thank the Australian Government for its paper, tabled again in June, on the trial inspection of an Australian chemical facility conducted earlier in the year. We would also commend Canada for the material that it has made available to the Conference this year, including a handbook for the investigation of allegations of the use of chemical or biological weapons and the very useful compendia of Conference working papers and statements.

Finally, we would mention recent initiatives of both the United States and the Soviet Union relevant to the negotiations, that is, the provision by the Soviet Union in April of detailed proposals on certain issues in the negotiations, and the demonstration by the United States, in its paper on its chemical stockpile disposal programme, of the sort of openness that will help to build confidence that chemical-weapon stockpiles have, in fact, been destroyed. We welcome such developments.

In concluding, I would like to express the hope of the New Zealand delegation that the Ad Hoc Committee will be able to maintain momentum in the negotiations and in particular to continue work on specific subjects under consideration in the working groups after the current session of the Conference has ended for this year.