

(Mr. Vaernø, Norway)

The Norwegian Ministry of Foreign Affairs intends to continue to support research in Norway of questions relevant to a future chemical weapons convention and the results of such research will in due course be presented to the Committee.

Finally, I have the honour to present working paper CD/397 on verification of the non-production of chemical weapons in Norway. Such verification should in principle be based on on-site inspections under the auspices of the consultative committee according to a list of key precursors. This list, as well as the criteria for making such a list, should be kept under constant review. The key precursors for super-toxic lethal chemicals and other super-toxic chemicals, listed in the annex to the working paper, document CD/353, submitted by the United Kingdom, would seem to be sufficient for a system of inspection in order to verify that those substances which pose the greatest threat are not being produced in violation of the future convention. In that working paper, the United Kingdom presented a survey of the British production and civil uses of key precursors. It was suggested that other States should furnish corresponding data concerning their civil chemical industries. The third paper which I am submitting today, in document CD/397, contains similar data as regards civil production and uses in Norway. As can be seen from this document, the civil uses of such substances in Norway are very limited and based on import. I hope that these data will be useful in the Committee's further work in regard to the verification of non-production of chemical weapons.