

(Mr. Hyltenius, Sweden)

non-members of the Conference on Disarmament which are participating in the negotiations. This bodes well for the prospects of future adherence to the convention. The regional initiatives undertaken and planned are other examples of constructive contributions to these endeavours.

In this past year we have also worked very actively on verification issues. Apart from the active consideration of these issues in one of the Working Groups, which led to some important concrete results and to which I shall revert in a minute, a determined effort was made to come to grips with the problem of challenge verification, or - as I would prefer to name it - inspection on request. I presented a draft article IX, which was welcomed by a large number of delegations and extensively and intensively discussed. It did not prove possible, however, to agree on the article. It would, of course, have been a great achievement to settle this long-standing political problem relating to a cornerstone of the convention, but in my view there is no reason to be too discouraged by this situation. The remaining problems are now better known and understood by all delegations. This is a stage we must go through in order to achieve the convention.

In this connection it is interesting to note the efforts made in trial inspections on request to illustrate the problems encountered and find solutions to them. The Committee will in fact be in a better position than before to resolve this issue when it comes under renewed consideration.

The open-ended consultations on the Executive Council seemed by and large to confirm the viability of the existing provisions in appendix I, whereas it appeared that the issues of the composition and decision-making procedures of the Council were not yet ripe for solution.

Besides the complete treatment of major political hard-core issues that I have just outlined, considerable progress has been made on various issues which are now reflected in the new "rolling text". The disappointment over the lack of agreement on a few key issues must not obscure the considerable and concrete achievements made in the three Working Groups and by the Friends of the Chair.

From Working Group A we have received a new and final text on investigations of alleged use of chemical weapons, which is harmonized with the procedures available to the Secretary-General of the United Nations and is now included in the protocol on inspection procedures. In addition, painstaking work has been done in Working Group A, which has resulted in readable and, most importantly, implementable verification provisions in the annexes to articles IV and V. These provisions and similar provisions in the annexes to article VI have, furthermore, been harmonized with provisions in the protocol on inspection procedures. I wish to thank Mr. Sahbaz for his contributions to these important results. ..

Working Group B has been able to incorporate into the "rolling text" a complete order of destruction for chemical weapons as well as for chemical weapons production facilities. I would like to recall that before the 1990 session this was considered by representatives from all groups as one of the