

## SWEDEN

Working PaperThe concept "precursor" and a suggestion for definition for the purpose of a Chemical Weapons ConventionIntroduction

During the consultations with delegations, assisted by experts, by the Chairman of the Working Group for Chemical Weapons regarding standardized toxicity determinations, the Swedish delegation presented a Working Paper, CD/CW/CTC/4. In response to the ensuing discussions on the matter the Swedish delegation now wants to submit a revised version taking into account points of views which were then raised by other delegations.

Several working papers have been submitted on the subject during the spring session 1982. Some of them are summarized and commented upon in Working Paper CD/266, 24 March 1982, presented by Yugoslavia, entitled Binary weapons and the problem of their definition and verification.

The main reason why the concept of "precursors" has a particular importance in connection with the Chemical Weapons Convention relates to the question of "binary chemical weapons". The idea of binary weapons, described below, is not new. It has for a long time been realized that these types of weapons have to be provided for under a CW-convention. The discussions on the matter in the Committee on Disarmament and its predecessors have been relatively vague until the imminence of production of such weapons spurred the discussion.

However, as a matter of fact precursors will have to be provided for under the convention also in order to monitor non-production of some chemical warfare agents. These relations are discussed below.

Binary and "classical" chemical weapons

The term "binary chemical weapon" should be used to denote the complete warhead or other disseminating device, which includes two more or less toxic chemicals, and which is constructed to let a chemical reaction take place between these chemicals to form a (super-)toxic chemical warfare agent immediately before and in connection with delivery to the target. The term should not be used to describe the (main) chemical end product, i.e. the chemical warfare agent itself, which is produced within the warhead. This production technique may be called the "binary technique", and the term be reserved for this purpose.