

(Mr. Alfararqi, Egypt)

This leads me to a second point, which is that at a time when we are interested in verification of compliance by the parties with the provisions of the convention, we should not ignore the implications of some States not adhering to the convention. We have to take care not to repeat the experience of the NPT, where strict limitations are imposed on the States parties to the Treaty, while the non-parties remain absolutely free to develop their nuclear capabilities.

A third point. If there is scope for taking confidence-building measures during the negotiating period, and before the convention comes into force, we believe that such measures should include abstaining from producing new generations of chemical weapons and not seeking to continue to produce chemical weapons even after adhering to the treaty.

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(Mr. Rodrigo, Sri Lanka)

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In contrast to the stagnation in the CD on this question, there is happily a clearer flow and movement in respect of item 4 of the agenda of the CD, on chemical weapons. My delegation's gratitude needs to be expressed for the work carried out in the Ad hoc Committee last year under Ambassador Cromartie of the United Kingdom, and the major progress achieved under the guidance of Ambassador Ekéus of Sweden this year. Thanks to their sustained efforts, agreement on a convention on chemical weapons is a distinct certainty. Outstanding issues most certainly remain, such as those relating to verification, including the balance between the demands of a strict, binding verification régime to prevent violations of the proposed convention and, on the other hand, the concern of States to protect vital installations from unwarranted prying. An extended session of the Conference on Disarmament in November this year should be carefully considered if it could accelerate negotiations. Success on this issue would offer a clear example of the capabilities of the CD as a negotiating organ on an issue whose time has come -- an observation also made by the distinguished Foreign Minister of Sweden. Confidence-building measures such as the proposed exchange of visits to chemical facilities have contributed to bring success closer. We are grateful to the Chairman of the Ad hoc Committee on Chemical Weapons for innovative initiatives and modalities to speed up work.