

destroying the chemical weapons it abandoned. This is a fair and reasonable principle at all times; only by establishing such a principle can past wrongdoings be duly dealt with and future ones prevented. If, on the other hand, responsibility were imposed on the victim State, it would be not only a great injustice to the victim State, but also tantamount to allowing and encouraging a chemical-weapon-State to use chemical weapons against, and abandon such weapons in, another State whenever it pleases regardless of the consequences. This would obviously run counter to the letter and spirit of the convention.

5. As the circumstances under which chemical weapons were abandoned or will probably be abandoned may not be identical, they should be dealt with accordingly, in a pragmatic fashion. In setting forth the principle that the abandoning State shall bear the responsibility for destruction, the convention should not preclude the possibility that appropriate solutions may be found through consultations among the States concerned.

6. The precise role of the organization to be set up under the future convention in facilitating the solution of the problems of abandoned chemical weapons and in completing the destruction processes should be specified in the convention, and fully adhered to in practice.

II

7. The Chinese delegation has been working actively to promote an early and appropriate solution to the issue of abandoned chemical weapons on the basis of the foregoing position of principle. For this purpose, we now reiterate and further propose the following necessary additions and changes to the relevant paragraphs in the rolling text:

8. Paragraph 3 of Article I should read:

"3. Each State Party undertakes to destroy chemical weapons which are in its possession or under its [jurisdiction or] control, except as provided in paragraph 5 below."

Furthermore, a new paragraph 5 should be added at the end of Article I:

"5. Each State Party undertakes to destroy all chemical weapons it abandoned on the territory of another State, and the States concerned may on this basis seek proper solutions through consultations among themselves."

9. A new paragraph on the definition of abandoned chemical weapons should be inserted after paragraph 1 of Article II:

"The term 'Abandoned Chemical Weapons' means any chemical weapons abandoned in the past or in the future by a State on the territory of another State without its consent during a war or a conflict or under other circumstances."