

(Mr. Lineham, New Zealand)

given to listing chemicals that will be banned and chemicals that will be subject to monitoring régimes of varying degrees of stringency. This is necessary work since the toxic chemicals and their precursors that are subject to surveillance will need to be clearly listed so that the parties to the convention and the chemical industry are certain of the chemicals involved.

Consideration has also been given this year, however, to the régimes applied to those chemicals, and it does seem to us that this is a key area for future work. It is the devising of acceptable and effective régimes that will determine whether any chemical-weapons convention will be successful. We are encouraged by the progress that has been achieved in Working Group A this year, during intensive work under Australian chairmanship, on the whole question of criteria, lists and régimes and permitted activities.

In a disarmament treaty of this kind, where a whole category of weapons of mass destruction is to be banned forever, the formulation of provisions to verify compliance with the convention is central to the convention régime. Such provisions would include procedures for conducting international on-site inspections -- we do not see that such inspections could be left to national verification authorities -- and also for conducting inspections at short notice, so-called challenge inspections, in cases when breaches of the convention are suspected. It is expected that such cases would be exceptional.

Inspections will need to be provided for not only in the case of alleged breaches of obligations to declare and to destroy existing chemical weapons and production facilities, but also in the case of the obligation not to produce new chemical weapons. There are grounds for some encouragement at the progress that has been made in the negotiations in this area. We have appreciated the intensive efforts made by the Indonesian delegation on verification and compliance issues in Working Group C. We have also noted the very recent United Kingdom proposals on "challenge inspection" which seem to have given rise to a good deal of interest.

These and other proposals were put forward in this Conference in an effort to find consensus, and we would hope that procedures which are acceptable to all can be devised to resolve this long-standing issue. Agreement on the inspection provisions would constitute a major breakthrough in the negotiations. This should be a priority area for future work.

A comprehensive prohibition on the development, production, stockpiling and use of chemical weapons, and in particular procedures in the Convention for verification of compliance, could be expected to be of some significance for the civilian chemical industry. We expect that New Zealand's industry, like others, would co-operate in the application of such measures and by doing so demonstrate that it does not want to contribute in any way to the manufacturing of chemical weapons.

In the elaboration of the procedures there will naturally be some concerns, such as the protection of commercial confidentiality and the