

(Ms. Theorin, Sweden)

Last year the negotiations in the Ad Hoc Committee on Chemical Weapons advanced in a slow but steady fashion. The 40 pages of CD/636, making up the present draft for a Convention, are no small achievement and speak for themselves.

The process of defining and listing relevant chemicals is now well under way, after having been dead-locked for some time. This work is fundamental to the continued elaboration of several other parts of the Convention. It should therefore be actively pursued during the 1986 session. The question of identifying chemical weapons production facilities as well as measures for their elimination is another area usefully dealt with during the last months. A substantial amount of work remains, however. There are certain prospects for further progress this year.

Other issues which necessitate major efforts during 1986 are the elaboration of principles for the elimination of existing stocks of chemical weapons, as well as régimes to ensure that new chemical weapons do not emerge within the framework of the chemical industry. Last, but not least agreements must be reached on the principles, procedures and organization for ensuring all States parties that the forthcoming Convention is being complied with in all aspects.

A certain momentum has been created in the negotiations on the chemical weapons Convention. This was confirmed when the leaders of the United States and the Soviet Union met here in Geneva a few months ago. The role and the