

(Mr. Fan, China)

Organization, the challenging States and the challenged States should be handled appropriately. In other words, during a challenge inspection, reasonable requests made by the challenging State should be satisfied; the Organization should play an essential and appropriate role; and the legitimate rights and interests of the challenged State should also be respected and protected. Thirdly, the issue of preventing misuse and abuse of challenge inspection merits further in-depth consideration. In our view, requests for challenge inspections should be reasonable, specific and precise. They must not be used to carry out activities irrelevant to the objective of the convention or to disrupt chemical industry production excessively. Once facts of non-compliance have been established, the challenged State should assume full responsibility. Otherwise, the challenging State should bear political and economical responsibility.

The protection of confidential information acquired during inspections was the subject of serious discussion in the working group chaired by Mr. Cima of the Czechoslovak delegation last year, and preliminary results were produced. At the moment, this issue is under further consideration in Working Group 1, with a new approach. On the one hand, we view the issue of confidentiality as one concerning not only confidential industrial and commercial information but also confidential military information bearing upon national security. The convention should provide for necessary measures to protect confidentiality in order to ensure that the confidential nature of the States parties' industrial, commercial and military information is not subject to undue breaches. On the other hand, we think that such measures should not undermine the effectiveness of verification.

The Chinese delegation welcomes the fact that national trial inspections have been conducted or are about to be conducted in more than a dozen countries. The results of these national trial inspections are helpful in reviewing and improving the inspection procedures. The experts in the Chinese delegation have participated in the experts' meetings and will study in earnest the experience accumulated by other countries in this regard.

The issue of assistance constitutes an important provision of the convention and needs to be addressed properly. An express provision in the convention for assistance to the States parties which are victims of the use or the threat of use of chemical weapons will enhance the universality of the convention. Furthermore, it will act as a restraint on the use of such weapons. In the view of the Chinese delegation, assistance from the Organization to States which are victims of chemical weapons is of great significance as a demonstration of the collective will of all States parties to the convention against the use or the threat of use of chemical weapons. Working Group 5 has conducted helpful discussions, under the chairmanship of Dr. Krutzsch of the delegation of the German Democratic Republic, on how to achieve this objective. We hope that a compromise solution acceptable to all can be found so that that the problem can be solved as soon as possible.

The Chinese delegation fully understands the importance attached by many delegations to article XI concerning economic and technical development, and supports their reasonable views on the matter. We believe that the convention should not impair the development of chemical industry and international co-operation in this field.