

(Mr. Morel, France)

reflection, and may be the beginning of a compromise between the various points of view as to the role that should devolve upon the requesting State, the requested State and the organs of the convention.

As for its placement, it was finally agreed that appendix II should continue to be the home of this text, which stems from consultations with all delegations, and which now replaces the former text that was drawn up in 1987 by the Chairman of the Ad hoc Committee, Ambassador Ekéus, and added to in 1988 - a text which on his sole responsibility represented a first representation of the various points of view. An introductory section preceding the new document, as well as the various footnotes, clearly show that this is a step forward to be followed up in the context of ongoing work, namely, the elaboration of article IX, part 2. Bearing in mind the importance of this procedure, which all delegations consider to be the corner-stone of the system of verification under the future convention, I venture to stress that this is an urgent task.

Seventh and last, I would like to mention that during the inter-sessional period the Committee benefited from the very intensive work of the Technical Group on Instrumentation created last June and chaired by Dr. Marjatta Rautio. As this work is not a direct part of the negotiations, it was deemed preferable not to insert the Group's final report, which was distributed on 22 January as document CD/CW/WP.272. However, its principal elements are mentioned in paragraph 7 of the introductory part of the "rolling text", and I should like to take this opportunity to stress that this first methodical inventory of the technical and scientific facilities and procedures necessary for the proper implementation of the convention has been very enlightening for all delegations. This report offers a first overall picture and outlines avenues of research for the experts. The work of the Group also made it possible to identify various technical adjustments necessary to arrive at more coherent procedures. More generally, it enabled us to measure to what extent the Committee increasingly required the support of experts to prepare, as of now, for the smooth practical implementation of the future convention.

Allow me to conclude this year as Chairman of the Committee by presenting a few more personal comments. Let me say first of all that it was a fascinating experience, conducted in the course of a year which in many ways was exceptional, in many areas, of course, but also where chemical weapons are concerned, with a remarkable series of decisive initiatives which I need not recall here. Though less spectacular, the speeding up of negotiations within the Conference on Disarmament has been an integral part of this unprecedented sequence, which highlighted the growing importance accorded by the international community to disarmament in the field of chemical weapons. We may regret that in the course of the session it was not possible to complete the task assigned to us, but we must properly weigh up what finalization means. The disappointed expectations of a decisive breakthrough which would resolve the "outstanding problems" at a stroke does not entirely correspond to what remains to be done. At the risk of stretching this strategic metaphor, I will observe that the entire front has moved and that we will succeed in concluding the convention by dealing with it as an integrated and coherent whole.