

(Miss Solesby, United Kingdom)

Access to the site would be mandatory within a given number of hours.

The purpose of the inspection would be to check whether any activity in the facility concerned was subject to declaration or prohibition under the terms of the convention.

The inspection would be carried out by inspectors from among the full-time Inspectorate of the Technical Secretariat. They would inform all States parties that the inspection had taken place and of its findings.

The format would differ from that for existing routine inspections and from that for challenge inspection. For example there would be no "facility attachment", and there might be no need for an observer from the requesting State to accompany the inspection team. My authorities are still considering in detail, with the help of our experience in national trial inspections, just what would constitute the most appropriate format, and I shall be returning to the subject in the near future when I submit our conclusions to the Conference.

In addition to the procedures I have just described, it would be open to any State party or group of States parties to reach agreement with another State party or group of States parties to establish a bilateral system of inspections of the same or similar character: the cost of any such bilateral scheme would be met by the parties concerned.

This then is our proposed system of "ad hoc inspections". It would operate alongside the two types of régimes already set out in CD/881, namely those for existing routine inspections and that for challenge inspection, both of which would remain crucial elements of the verification régime.

It seems to us that ad hoc inspections would have a number of important advantages. Firstly, ad hoc inspections would complete the on-site inspection framework described in CD/881 with a manageable number of régimes. Secondly, nomination by States parties would focus attention on facilities of most interest both to the convention and to the requesting States parties. Thirdly, the level of reassurance and deterrence would be further enhanced by the mandatory nature of the inspection request and the very short advance warning. Fourthly, the targeted nature of the system would enable the vast numbers of facilities involved to be subjected to verification at a high level of cost-effectiveness. Fifthly, the annual quota available to each State party and the absence of expressed doubts about compliance would give the system a routine character.

That is the proposal for ad hoc inspections I wish to submit to the Conference. It is described in document CD/909. This has just been circulated this morning in the English language text, and the other languages will be available very soon. I would stress again how much my authorities welcome the constructive suggestions which have been made by other delegations who share our concern to strengthen the inspection framework. We hope that our own alternative option of "ad hoc inspections" which we are now putting forward will prove a useful contribution to the debate.