

Review Conference of the Parties to the Treaty on Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons,
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Main Committee II

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Mme. Chairperson

It is my honor to address this Committee in my capacity as current Chairperson of the Nuclear Suppliers Group (NSG) for the year 2022-2023.

The NSG is a group of responsible nuclear exporter countries working to reinforce the objectives of Art. III, 2 of the Non Proliferation Treaty and to contribute to the non-proliferation of nuclear weapons through exports control.

As we all know Article III, 2 of the NPT sets the obligation to apply safeguards on exports for peaceful purposes to any non-nuclear-weapon State of nuclear equipment or material especially designed or prepared for the processing, use or production of special fissionable material . This Article does not cover exports of technology, such as design information to build a reactor, or the exports of nuclear-related dual-use equipment and technology which could be used to develop nuclear weapons.

In this respect the role played by the NSG adds value to the non-proliferation architecture through the elaboration and implementation of Guidelines covering the exports of nuclear material equipment and technology in Part 1, and transfers of nuclear-related dual-use equipment, materials , software and related technology in Part 2. The NSG Guidelines are published by the IAEA as documents INFCIRC 254 Part 1 and Part 2. The NSG Guidelines were first published in 1978, and this year marks the 30th anniversary of the establishment in 1992 of Part 2 of the Guidelines.

The robust and effective export controls implemented by NSG participating governments promote responsible supplier behavior enabling legitimate trade and investment.

At the same time NSG Guidelines constitute important tools that can assist all NPT States parties to effectively implement national export, transit, transshipment and re-exports controls.

The importance of export controls has been recognized in Action 36 of the Final Document of the 2010 NPT Review Conference where States parties are encouraged to make use of multilaterally negotiated and agreed guidelines and understandings in developing their own national export controls. The United Nations Security Council has also highlighted the

significant role of export controls in its resolution 1540 and other related decisions. There is an established practice of contacts and dialogue between the NSG and the Security Council.

Mme. Chairperson

Let me now update this Main Committee II about the NSG work since our presentation to the last NPT Review Conference in 2015.

During these past seven years the NSG has been chaired by the Republic of Korea, Switzerland, Latvia, Kazakhstan, Belgium, your country Poland, currently by Argentina and after the next Plenary Brazil will take such responsibility

In terms of ongoing activities since the 2015 NPT Review Conference, NSG Participating Governments have continued to exchange information on global proliferation challenges and reiterated their firm support for the full, complete and effective implementation of the NPT as the cornerstone of the international non-proliferation regime. The Group has continued to maintain its focus on technical issues important to the implementation of the Control Lists, by exchanging views and agreeing on a number of proposals to clarify and update the NSG Guidelines and Control Lists to keep pace with the evolution and development of technologies as well as with an evolving global security landscape and a fast paced nuclear and nuclear-related industry.

The NSG has adopted a number of recommendations related to changes to the Trigger List and Dual-Use Annex to be included in revisions to INFCIRC/254 Parts 1 & 2 (as amended) following the 2016, 2019 and 2022 Plenary meetings (in keeping with the 3-year publication decision).

The Group has considered the importance of efficient and effective processing of Government to Government Assurances to ensure that NSG Participating Governments have the necessary tools to facilitate the timely authorization of legitimate exports of nuclear material, equipment and technology pursuant to the NSG Part 1 Guidelines.

An important aspect of work in the NSG continues to be balancing the need for confidentiality with the principle of transparency – an important aspect of which is to reach out to interested NPT States Parties on the margins of the Review Conferences to enhance understanding of the NSG and its Guidelines. Successive NSG Chairs have regularly made presentations on behalf of the NSG at the Asian Export Control Seminar in Tokyo, and the Chair of the Technical Experts Group presented at a Training Course for the 1540 Points of Contact in the Asia Pacific Region (2019).

Over the years the Group continues to consider matters related to enlargement including the “Technical, Legal and Political Aspects of the Participation of non-NPT States in the NSG”.

The NSG regularly encourages all nuclear suppliers to express their responsible approach to nuclear exports by adhering to the NSG Guidelines, to fully implement all UNSC resolutions relevant to the work and purposes of the NSG, to exercise utmost vigilance, and to make every effort to ensure that none of their exports of goods and technologies contribute to nuclear weapons programs.

The highlights from NSG Plenary meetings since the last briefing in 2015 include the following:

In 2015 further enhancements to outreach were agreed, including through dedicated briefing(s) for interested non-NSG partners on the work of the Group, increased visibility of the NSG at appropriate international meetings to improve public awareness about the NSG's work and mission, and a dedicated response to non-NSG partners seeking assistance and practical experience on developing, updating, strengthening and implementing national export control systems.

The NSG welcomed the announcement on 16 January 2016 of the Implementation Day of the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA). Following up on the Extraordinary Plenary held on 21 January and 26 April this year, the NSG expressed interest in continuing to be briefed by the Procurement Working Group coordinator on the Procurement Channel established under the JCPOA and UNSCR 2231 (2015) as appropriate, and the practice has continued.

In 2017 in its continuing efforts to enhance outreach, the NSG approved revised guidance, and launched an effort to update the NSG website including the addition of a homepage news banner and an interactive timeline to the history page, and launched further features including a video/interactive tutorial of the NSG based on INFCIRC/539 (as amended).

The NSG has held informal dialogues with the nuclear industry since the Bern NSG Plenary in 2017, and PGs have exchanged views on national practices of awareness-raising and interaction with industry as well as academic and research institutions, related to NSG controlled items. Building on an outreach event with the World Association of Nuclear Operators (WANO) and the World Nuclear Association (WNA) in 2018, the NSG held a follow-on outreach event in 2019 with three organizations representing the global civilian nuclear industry which addressed specific issues including technology and industry developments in the context of NSG Guidelines and Control Lists. Later that year the NSG held an informal dialogue with nominated representatives of industry to further explore matters related to implementing the NSG Guidelines.

NSG PGs have continued to improve the NSG website adding an FAQ section, language on 'Adherence', a new section entitled 'Outreach', completion and upload of the multilingual NSG explanatory video "What is the NSG", added a link to the Nuclear-related transfers and activities (procurement channel) on the UN website, approved amendments to the history section, added language to recognize outreach to Industry, and updated the news banner and Guidelines section to explain the process for updating the NSG Guidelines and Control Lists. In addition, a simplified Chinese language version (2019) and a Russian language version of the NSG website have been added (2021).

In 2020-2021 the restricted working conditions imposed by the COVID-19 pandemic created a number of challenges, but PGs nevertheless made a smooth transition that allowed for continuity of work through a secure remote video communication system and held informal online consultations and briefings during the "stoppage time". The Group agreed to follow in future a new timing of the Plenary taking place at the end of a Chair's term in office rather than at the beginning as had been the practice.

During the latter part of 2021 and into 2022, the NSG has continued to consider ways to strengthen support to the Chairs and the sustainability of the group, as well as to improve the understanding of PGs of the specific technical work through implementation tools and good practices to facilitate preparations in advance of Technical Experts Group meetings.

The recent 2022 Plenary brought the Group back to Warsaw 30 years after the creation of the Dual Use Regime. The adopted agreed changes to the Control Lists have been included in an updated INFCIRC/254 recently submitted to the IAEA for publication, in keeping with past practice. In Warsaw, the NSG also agreed to update its outreach tools, including the website and the document "The Nuclear Suppliers Group: Its Guidelines, Origins, Structure, and Activities" (published by the IAEA as INFCIRC/539/Revision 7) to reflect factual outcomes from the 2022 NSG Plenary in advance of the 10th NPT Review Conference. Work will continue to consider ways to promote increased dialogue with industry and to review the body of good practices documents to ensure they remain up to date.

Mme. Chairperson

The world is facing significant challenges in the area of climate change and there is an increasing recognition of the role that nuclear technology can play by providing a reliable and carbon neutral source of energy to the electrical grid.

In such context the current role of the NSG is crucial as a contribution to the exercise of the inalienable right to the peaceful uses of nuclear technology through international cooperation by providing a framework of certainty both for Governments and industry.

Finally I would like to invite you all to the event "Nuclear Supplier Group (NSG) and Zangger Committee: Nuclear Export Controls" that will take place on August 18th at 13.15 in Conference Room C.