

PRESS STATEMENT

The 1994 Plenary Meeting of the "Nuclear Suppliers Group" (NSG) took place in Madrid (Spain) from 12 to 14 April under the Chairmanship of Ambassador José Antonio de Yturriaga. A fundamental objective of the Group is to ensure that cooperation in the peaceful uses of nuclear energy does not contribute directly or indirectly to the proliferation of nuclear weapons.

Representatives of the 29¹ member States participated in the Meeting. Argentina was welcomed as a new member.

Representatives of New Zealand and the Republic of South Africa and the European Commission attended as observers.

The Group reviewed the Guidelines for Nuclear Transfers (DOC INFCIRC 254 Part 1 Rev.1 Mod 1) on the basis of recommendations by the Working Group on Conditions of Supply and adopted several changes in order to respond to new concerns in the field of nuclear proliferation. The NSG decided to continue its efforts to ensure that exports of nuclear or nuclear-related dual-use items for peaceful purposes are not diverted to non peaceful purposes. To this end it agreed to strengthen the retransfers provisions in the Guidelines and to incorporate a new provision in the Guidelines underlining the importance of members satisfying themselves that their transfers would not contribute to the proliferation of nuclear weapons or other nuclear explosive devices.

The Group noted with satisfaction that the Technical Working Group had completed its work on clarifying and expanding the list of nuclear goods and technology in the areas of uranium enrichment, uranium conversion and reactor coolant pumps. The Technical Working Group was mandated to continue reviewing the nuclear-related items included in the Annex Part 1 of the Guidelines. A new Technical Working Group was created to review the Annex to Part 2 of the Guidelines.

The Group decided to restructure its arrangements for exchanging information on proliferation threats with the objective of further enhancing members' ability to

¹ Members of the Group are:

Argentina, Australia, Austria, Belgium, Bulgaria, Canada, Czech Republic, Denmark, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Ireland, Italy, Japan, Luxembourg, Netherlands, Norway, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Russian Federation, Slovak Republic, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, United Kingdom, United States of America. New Zealand, South Africa and the European Commission attended as observers.

respond to these threats. The Group also reviewed progress made in the Information Sharing Working Group towards finding a more expeditious means for circulating information among members.

The Group affirmed the principle of transparency and agreed that members should continue their efforts to brief non-members on the aims and activities of the Group.

The Group also requested the Chair to conduct a series of briefings for non-members on the outcome of the Madrid meeting. Members noted the value of Regional Seminars in promoting better understanding of the NSG and encouraged individual members to continue to convene these seminars.

The NSG renewed its appeal to other members of the international Community which are either current or potential nuclear or nuclear-related dual-use suppliers to follow the reinforced standards on export controls, including the requirement for full-scope safeguards as a condition of supply, by adherence to the amended Guidelines.

The Group also renewed its appeal to all States which have not yet done so, to accede to the Non-Proliferation Treaty, which is the cornerstone of the nuclear non-proliferation regime, as non-nuclear-weapons States, to adopt IAEA full-scope safeguards, and to implement effective nuclear export controls.

The next Plenary Meeting will be held in Helsinki from 5 to 7 April 1995.