

NUCLEAR SUPPLIERS GROUP
PLENARY MEETING

BUENOS AIRES, 25 - 26 April 1996

PRESS STATEMENT

The 1996 Plenary Meeting of the Nuclear Suppliers Group (NSG) took place in Buenos Aires from 25 to 26 April under the chairmanship of Ambassador Enrique Julio de la Torre of Argentina. This was the first Plenary Meeting of the Group in Latin America.

The main objective of the Group is to ensure that nuclear transfers do not contribute directly or indirectly to the proliferation of nuclear weapons and thereby to facilitate cooperation in the peaceful uses of nuclear energy.

Representatives of the 34 Member States participated in the meeting. The Republic of Korea, Ukraine, and the Federative Republic of Brazil were welcomed as new members.¹ The European Commission attended as a permanent observer.

The Group noted the very positive developments that have taken place since its previous Plenary: the decision on the indefinite extension of the NPT and on the strengthening of the review process of the Treaty; the signature by France, the UK and the US of the Protocols to the RAROTONGA Treaty; and also the signature of the PELINDABA Treaty, which, together with the TLATELOLCO Treaty, make a significant contribution to international peace and security.

Responding to the Decision 2 "Principles and Objectives for Nuclear Non-Proliferation and Disarmament" adopted at the NPT Review and Extension Conference on 11 May 1995, the Group agreed to promote openness and transparency through further dialogue and cooperation with non-member countries by establishing a working group to advance this objective.

¹Members of the Group are: Argentina, Australia, Austria, Belgium, Brazil, Bulgaria, Canada, Czech Republic, Denmark, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Ireland, Italy, Japan, Republic of Korea, Luxembourg, Netherlands, New Zealand, Norway, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Russian Federation, South Africa, Slovak Republic, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, Ukraine, United Kingdom and United States of America.

The Group welcomed the endorsement by the 1995 NPT Review and Extension Conference of the requirement for IAEA full-scope safeguards as a precondition for new supply arrangements.

The Buenos Aires Plenary welcomed the decision on 20 April 1996, by the Moscow Nuclear Safety and Security Summit regarding the commitment to conclude and sign a truly comprehensive test ban treaty by September 1996, as a major step towards the achievement of such an important goal. It also welcomed the adoption by the Summit of a programme for preventing and combating illicit trafficking in nuclear material.

The NSG stressed the importance of the consolidation of the Group as an integral component of the global nuclear non-proliferation regime.

NSG Members accepted with appreciation the offer of the Government of Canada to host the next NSG Plenary in 1997.