

**NUCLEAR SUPPLIERS GROUP
PLENARY MEETING**

**OTTAWA, CANADA
MAY 8-9, 1997**

PRESS STATEMENT

The 1997 Plenary Meeting of the Nuclear Suppliers Group (NSG)¹ was held in Ottawa on May 8th and 9th with Dr. Agnes Bishop, President of the Atomic Energy Control Board of Canada, in the Chair. This was the first Plenary meeting of the NSG held in North America.

The Group agreed that the activities of the Nuclear Suppliers Group continued to make an important and positive contribution to the non-proliferation of nuclear weapons and to international cooperation in the peaceful uses of nuclear energy.

Aware of the "Principles and Objectives for Nuclear Non-proliferation and Disarmament" adopted at the 1995 NPT Review and Extension Conference, the Group continued its efforts to promote greater transparency and openness in its activities through increased and improved dialogue with non-member states. These efforts build upon ongoing outreach activities and other measures undertaken by the Group. The Group agreed to host an International Seminar on the Role of Export Controls in Nuclear Non-proliferation, to be held October 6th and 7th, 1997 in Vienna.

The Group recalled that during the course of the year it had, in coordination with the Zangger Committee, further clarified and strengthened its Trigger List of nuclear items with respect to nuclear reactors, fuel fabrication facilities and non-nuclear material.

Additional measures to facilitate the sharing of information among Member States were adopted.

¹ Members of the Nuclear Suppliers 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, United States of America.

The European Commission is a permanent observer.

Matters relating to membership issues and expressions of interest by some non-member states in joining the NSG were discussed.

The NSG members accepted with appreciation the offer of the Government of the United Kingdom to host the next Plenary meeting in 1998.

The Group noted with satisfaction the continued international emphasis on nuclear non-proliferation issues since its last Plenary meeting in Buenos Aires, Argentina in April, 1996. The Group took note of a number of positive developments on the international nuclear non-proliferation agenda during the past year, including, inter alia, the recently-concluded first Preparatory Committee meeting for the 6th Review Conference of the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons (NPT), and provisional agreement on the IAEA's programme for strengthened and more efficient safeguards.

The Nuclear Suppliers Group had its origins in 1974 as a forum for the discussion of conditions on nuclear transfers with a view to encouraging international cooperation in the peaceful uses of nuclear energy while at the same time minimizing the risks of nuclear weapons proliferation associated with those transfers. In 1978, a set of guidelines was established for nuclear transfers for peaceful purposes to non-nuclear weapons states, including a list of items to be exported pursuant to the Guidelines (International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) DOC INFCIRC/254). This was supplemented by additional Guidelines and an Annex covering certain nuclear-related dual-use items in 1992 (IAEA DOC INFCIRC/254/Part 2).