

NSG STATEMENT

NSG Plenary Meeting

Brasilia, 1-2 June, 2006

The NSG – Strengthening the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Regime

The sixteenth Plenary Meeting of the Nuclear Suppliers Group (NSG) took place in Brasilia, on the 1st and 2nd June 2006. Ambassador Samuel Pinheiro Guimarães Neto, Deputy Minister of External Relations, made a welcoming opening statement on behalf of the Brazilian Government. The meeting was chaired by Ambassador José Artur Denot Medeiros, Special Representative for Disarmament and Non-Proliferation.

The aim of the NSG, which currently has 45 Participating Governments,¹ and the European Commission as a permanent observer, is to prevent the proliferation of nuclear weapons through export controls of nuclear and nuclear-related material, equipment, software and technology, without hindering international cooperation on peaceful uses of nuclear energy.

The NSG took stock of developments since the last Plenary meeting in Oslo, in June 2005, and the Extraordinary Plenary Meeting held in Vienna in October 2005. In doing so, the NSG:

- Exchanged information on and analysed current proliferation challenges;
- Called on all states to exercise extreme vigilance and make best efforts to ensure that none of their exports of goods and technologies contribute to nuclear weapons programs;
- Discussed the value of continued review of trigger and dual-use lists, and the lists of producers of sensitive technologies and related items to ensure the appropriate control of unlisted items which could be used, directly or indirectly, in programs of concern;
- Recognised that the United Nations Security Council Resolution 1540 plays a crucial role in developing an effective mechanism to prevent the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction, their means of delivery and related materials to or from states and non-states actors world-wide, and welcomed the recent extension of the mandate of the 1540 Committee for a further period of two years.

¹ Argentina, Australia, Austria, Belarus, Belgium, Brazil, Bulgaria, Canada, China, Croatia, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Ireland, Italy, Japan, Kazakhstan, Republic Of Korea, Latvia, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malta, Netherlands, New Zealand, Norway, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Russian Federation, Slovakia, Slovenia, South Africa, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, Turkey, Ukraine, United Kingdom, and United States.

The exchange of information on current proliferation challenges focussed principally on the Islamic Republic of Iran. Participating Governments expressed their full support for the continuing work of the IAEA in fulfilling its mandate in Iran, and called on Iran to cooperate fully with the Agency in this regard. They recognised the importance of Confidence Building Measures in resolving the matter. Participating Governments expressed full support for the processes underway in various fora to find a diplomatic solution to the Iranian nuclear issue.

In order to strengthen further the Participating Governments' national export controls, the NSG decided to adopt, *inter alias*, the following measures:

- Revised guidelines for information sharing within the NSG;
- An approach to continue the Additional Protocol discussions in the Consultative Group;
- An amendment to the Part 1 Guidelines to include especially designed or prepared valves for use in enrichment plants;
- Means to incorporate the outcomes of the NSG Workshop on sensitive technologies into outreach activities.

The Participating Governments also agreed to continue discussion on:

- The issue of Non-Member States adherence to NSG Guidelines, in order to ensure wider implementation of comprehensive and effective control systems.
- Further strengthening of the NSG Guidelines with respect to special controls on sensitive exports.
- Whether NSG internal procedures should be reviewed or clarified, in order to enhance information exchange in all aspects.

The Participating Governments furthermore agreed to mandate the Chair and the Troika to continue contacts with Non-participant Governments and International Organizations in the framework of the existing NSG outreach program.

Participating Governments continued to examine the issues raised by the US-India Joint Statement of July 2005. They discussed, in this context, a possible NSG-India relationship regarding civilian nuclear co-operation. They decided to continue their consultations and agreed to return to this matter at the next regular Consultative Group meeting, when further information might be available.

Brasilia, 2 June 2006