

**NSG PLENARY MEETING
GÖTEBORG, SWEDEN, 27-28 May, 2004**

The NSG – strengthening the nuclear non-proliferation regime.

The fourteenth Plenary Meeting of the Nuclear Suppliers Group took place in Göteborg, Sweden on the 27-28th of May 2004. Ms Lotta Fogde, State Secretary with special responsibility for export controls, Swedish Ministry for Foreign Affairs, made a welcoming opening statement on behalf of the Swedish Government. The meeting was chaired by Mr Richard Ekwall, Director, Department for Strategic Export Controls, Ministry for Foreign Affairs, Stockholm.

Estonia, Lithuania, Malta and the People's Republic of China were approved by the Plenary as new Participating Governments to the Group. Their participating status will take effect by an exchange of notes on 10 June 2004.

The Plenary took stock of developments in the nuclear field since the last Plenary Meeting in Busan, Republic of Korea, in May 2003. In doing so, the Plenary:

- Welcomed Libya's voluntary decision to eliminate materials, equipment and programmes leading to the production of nuclear weapons. It underlined the good example that Libya has set.
- Noted with deep concern the discovery of elements of a covert international proliferation trafficking network, through which sensitive nuclear related equipment had found its way to Libya.
- Noted the importance of Iran's full compliance with its obligations under the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT) and called on Iran to implement proactively all of the provisions of the resolutions of the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) Board of Governors and to restore broad international confidence.
- Urged the DPRK to return to full compliance with its international non-proliferation obligations under the NPT, including its Safeguards Agreement with the IAEA. Expressed its support for the ongoing process of the Six Party talks and looked forward with strong interest to a successful outcome.
- Called on all states to exercise extreme vigilance to make best efforts that none of their exports of goods and technologies contribute to nuclear weapons programmes.

In order to strengthen further the Participating Governments' national export controls, the Plenary decided to adopt, inter alia, the following measures:

- A "catch-all" mechanism in the NSG Guidelines, to provide a national legal basis to control the export of nuclear related items that are not on the control lists, when such items are or may be intended for use in connection with a nuclear weapons programme.
- To strengthen the annual information exchange.

- To reinforce the NSG's contacts with non-partners through seminars and other joint activities with states outside of the NSG.
- To strengthen the relationship between the NSG and the IAEA, including the provision of briefings to the IAEA Director General.

The Plenary also considered a range of other issues to strengthen further Participating Governments' national export control systems, such as:

- Conditions for the supply of nuclear and dual-use items on the NSG's control lists.
- The suspension of the supply of nuclear items following decisions taken by the IAEA Board of Governors as to a state's non-compliance with its NPT or Safeguards obligations.

The Participating Governments also:

- Recalled that the NSG Guidelines contain special provisions for controls of sensitive nuclear items, which can make a direct contribution to the production of fissile material for weapons purposes, as well as the non-proliferation principle and consultation principle, and that can be used to address concerns over the misuse of such sensitive items by recipient states.
- Confirmed that they will continue to work on the topic to further enhance measures to prevent transfers of sensitive equipment or technology to recipients which might use it for manufacturing nuclear explosive. Participating Governments take note of other relevant international work in this area.
- Recognized that such work must be considered in the context of the NPT and new international initiatives, and note in this regard the initiative of the Director General of the IAEA to convene an ad hoc expert group to review options and possibilities for such new fuel cycle activities.

The aim of the NSG, which has currently 40 Participating Governments¹ 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.

Göteborg, 28 May 2004

¹Members of the Nuclear Suppliers Group are:

Argentina, Australia, Austria, Belarus, Belgium, Brazil, Bulgaria, Canada, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Denmark, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Ireland, Italy, Japan, Kazakhstan, Republic of Korea, Latvia, Luxembourg, the Netherlands, New Zealand, Norway, Poland, Portugal, Romania, the Russian Federation, Slovakia, Slovenia, South Africa, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, Turkey, Ukraine, United Kingdom, United States of America

On 27 May 2004, the requests for participating status in the NSG, submitted by Estonia, Lithuania, Malta and the People's Republic of China were accepted by the Plenary Meeting. Their participating status will take effect by an exchange of notes on 10 June 2004.