The eighteenth Plenary Meeting of the Nuclear Suppliers Group (NSG) took place in Berlin on 22 and 23 May 2008. State Secretary Georg Boomgaarden made a welcoming opening statement on behalf of the German Government. The meeting was chaired by Ambassador Viktor Elbling, Federal Foreign Office.

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 the implementation on a national basis of export controls of nuclear and nuclear-related material, equipment, software and technology, without hindering international cooperation on peaceful uses of nuclear energy.

The next regular Plenary Meeting of the NSG will take place in 2009 in the Republic of Hungary.

Berlin, 23 May 2008

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.