

NSG-PRA / PRESS STATEMENT

NUCLEAR SUPPLIERS GROUP PLENARY MEETING

16 - 17 MAY 2002

ČERNÍN PALACE

PRAGUE

PRESS STATEMENT

The 2002 Plenary Meeting of the Nuclear Suppliers Group (NSG) was held in Prague, Czech Republic, on 16-17 May. Mr. Jan Kavan, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Czech Republic, made introductory welcoming remarks on behalf of the Czech Government. The meeting was chaired by Ambassador Pavel Vacek, the Czech Permanent Representative to the International Organisations in Vienna.

Kazakhstan was welcomed as the newest Participating Government in the Group.

The aim of the NSG, which has 40 Member States¹ and the European Commission as permanent observer, is to contribute to prevention of the proliferation of nuclear weapons through export controls of nuclear-related material, equipment, software and technology, without hindering international cooperation on peaceful uses of nuclear energy.

The Plenary recognised the challenge of terrorism that manifested itself so barbarically in September 2001 and agreed that the Group would continue developing its contribution to preventing and countering nuclear terrorism. The Group also agreed to continue to seek ways to enhance information sharing capabilities within the regime.

¹ Members of the NSG 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, Netherlands, New Zealand, Norway, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Russian Federation, Slovakia, Slovenia, South Africa, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, Turkey, Ukraine, United Kingdom, United States of America.

In that context, the need for effective export controls, including closer cooperation between law enforcement authorities, and strong support for the antiterrorism measures being undertaken by the IAEA was acknowledged. The importance of the requirement of IAEA full-scope safeguards as a condition of supply, strengthening of physical protection of nuclear materials and nuclear facilities and prevention of illicit trafficking of nuclear materials was reiterated in that connection. The Group renewed its encouragement to all those that have not yet done so, to conclude comprehensive safeguards agreements with the IAEA and Additional Protocol and stressed the need to follow the NSG Guidelines.

The Group mandated the Chair to continue the dialogue with the non-NSG countries that have developed nuclear programmes and are potential nuclear suppliers (China, Egypt, India, Indonesia, Iran, Malaysia, Mexico, Pakistan and extend to Israel) for the purpose of strengthening the global non-proliferation regime, in particular through the enhancement of the application of export controls.

To promote greater transparency and openness in NSG activities the NSG Web site was opened to the public on 13 May, 2002 (“www.nuclearsuppliersgroup.org” or “www.nsg-online.org”).

The NSG Participating Governments accepted with appreciation the offer of the Government of the Republic of Korea to host the next Plenary meeting in May 2003.

Prague, May 17, 2002