

**NUCLEAR SUPPLIERS GROUP PLENARY MEETING
BUSAN, 22-23 MAY 2003
PRESS STATEMENT**

Confronting the challenge of nuclear proliferation

Meeting in Busan, the Republic of Korea, 19-23 May, at its thirteenth Plenary, the Nuclear Suppliers Group agreed to step up international cooperation to prevent further nuclear proliferation. The Chairman, Ambassador Chun Yung-woo, said, 'We are meeting at a time of unprecedented and systematic challenges to the global non-proliferation regime based on the NPT.'

While underlining the need to ensure that the peaceful uses of nuclear energy are not hampered, the Group resolved that these challenges demand a concerted response. Inactivity is not an option. The NSG agreed to continue dialogue with countries outside the Group to prevent proliferators from shopping around to acquire material and equipment to build nuclear weapons.

In recent months, North Korea has repeatedly flouted its international non-proliferation obligations. The Group again called on all states to exercise extreme vigilance to ensure that none of their exports of goods and technologies contribute to North Korea's nuclear weapons effort. They also emphasized the need for all transshipment points to be alert to any North Korean procurement attempts. The Group resolved to conduct outreach with

certain non-NSG members to prevent North Korea from trying to find loopholes in the international non-proliferation system.

In view of recent developments, Participating Governments expressed concern over Iran's nuclear programme. Without wishing to prejudge the outcome of discussion at the June meeting of the IAEA Board of Governors, the Group called on the Iranian Government to resolve outstanding questions about this programme. The NSG expects Iran, as a member of the NPT, to uphold the nuclear non-proliferation regime.

Highlighting its commitment to transparency in its activities, the Group updated its public Website (www.nuclearsuppliersgroup.org). They refined the NSG Trigger List¹ to keep pace with technological developments. Finally, the Group agreed to examine aspects of its internal guidelines over the coming months to optimise their effectiveness.

The aim of the NSG, which has 40 Participating Governments² and the European Commission as permanent observer, is to contribute to the prevention of the proliferation of nuclear weapons through export controls of nuclear-related material, equipment, software and technology without hindering international co-operation on peaceful uses of nuclear energy.

¹ A list of nuclear related equipment, material or technology subject to export control

²Members 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.