

**NUCLEAR SUPPLIERS GROUP PLENARY MEETING
ASPEN, 10-11 MAY 2001**

PRESS STATEMENT

The 2001 Plenary meeting of the Nuclear Suppliers Group (NSG) was held in Aspen, Colorado on 10-11 May. Mr. Robert J. Einhorn, Assistant Secretary for Nonproliferation, U.S. Department of State, chaired the meeting.

The aim of the NSG, which has 39 Member States* and the European Commission as 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 Plenary agreed that the activities of the Group continued to fulfill this aim and the Group's contribution is all the more valuable today in the face of advancing threats of nuclear proliferation.

Slovenia was welcomed as the newest member of the group.

The NSG approved a new procedural arrangement to improve the effectiveness of the group. In this context, the NSG agreed to create a standing intersessional body, the Consultative Group, tasked to hold consultations on issues associated with its Guidelines on nuclear supply and the technical annexes. The NSG also agreed to amend the Guidelines to ensure improved clarity on current policies and conditions of supply. Matters relating to consistent interpretation of the Guidelines were also discussed. In order to better inform the public of the work of the Group, the Plenary endorsed the creation of a website, to be launched in the near future.

The NSG reaffirmed its 1992 decision requiring IAEA Full-Scope Safeguards as a condition of nuclear supply. At the same time, the NSG agreed to consider options for engaging with non-NSG countries that have developed nuclear programs and that are potential nuclear suppliers, for the purpose of strengthening the global nuclear nonproliferation regime.

The NSG encourages all states that have not yet done so to conclude Full-Scope Safeguards agreements with the IAEA and to bring them into force. The NSG reaffirms that the provisions of the IAEA model Additional Protocol will strengthen the nuclear safeguards regime and facilitate the exchange of nuclear and nuclear-related material in peaceful nuclear cooperation. The NSG encourages all States which have not yet done so, to conclude such Additional Protocols as soon as possible and to bring them into force. The NSG also encourages all states to follow the NSG Guidelines on nuclear supply.

The Chair was requested to continue contacts with Kazakhstan with a view to taking an intersessional decision on Kazakhstan's membership. The NSG mandated the Chair to pursue a dialogue with non-member States, and in particular to continue contacts with China, Egypt, India, Iran and Pakistan. The NSG also invited the Chair to open a dialogue with Indonesia,

*Members 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, 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.

Malaysia and Mexico, and to consider and make recommendations on a dialogue with transshipment states.

The NSG members accepted with appreciation the offer of the Government of the Czech Republic to host the next Plenary meeting in May 2002.