

**NUCLEAR SUPPLIERS GROUP EXTRAORDINARY PLENARY MEETING**

**13 DECEMBER 2002**

**VIENNA, AUSTRIA**

**P R E S S   S T A T E M E N T**

The Nuclear Suppliers Group (NSG) held an Extraordinary Plenary Meeting at the Permanent Mission of Japan to the International Organisations in Vienna on 13 December 2002, under the Czech Chairmanship.

The aim of the NSG, which has 40 Participating Governments<sup>1)</sup> 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 co-operation on peaceful uses of nuclear energy.

The Extraordinary Plenary Meeting was held to respond to the new proliferation and security challenges that threaten to strike at the foundations of the global non-proliferation regime. In response to the threat of nuclear terrorism, the Participating Governments of the NSG agreed to several comprehensive amendments to strengthen its Guidelines<sup>2)</sup>. These amendments are intended to prevent and counter the threat of diversion of nuclear exports to nuclear terrorism. The Plenary emphasised that effective export controls are an important tool to combat the threat of nuclear terrorism.

The Participating Governments of the NSG recalled the IAEA's Board of Governor's resolution of 29 November 2002, which recognised, inter alia, that a covert enrichment programme or any other covert nuclear activities would constitute a violation of the DPRK's international agreements, including their safeguards agreement pursuant to the NPT. The Plenary also took note of other concerns by Participating Governments that the recent activities of the DPRK are a clear violation of its commitments under the Agreed Framework and the Joint North-South Declaration on the Denuclearization of the Korean Peninsula. The Participating Governments of the NSG call on all states to exercise extreme vigilance that their exports and any goods or nuclear technologies that transit their territorial jurisdiction do not contribute to any aspect of a North Korean nuclear weapons effort, especially in light of current circumstances. The NSG and its Czech Chair stand ready at anytime to assist and provide information to all states for the purpose of maintaining vigilance to prevent the movement of nuclear and nuclear -related items and technologies to a DPRK nuclear weapons program.

The Participating Governments of the NSG call on all states to adopt enhanced export controls as a means to prevent the proliferation of nuclear weapons.

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1) Participating Governments 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.

2) Published as IAEA Document INFCIRC/254 as amended.