

Public Statement
Nuclear Suppliers Group Meeting
Christchurch, 21-25 June 2010

The twentieth Plenary Meeting of the Nuclear Suppliers Group (NSG) took place in Christchurch from 24-25 June 2010. The meeting was chaired by Ambassador Jennifer Macmillan, Permanent Representative of New Zealand to the United Nations Office and Other International Organisations in Vienna.

The NSG brings together 46 Participating Governments¹ with the European Commission participating as a permanent observer. The Group aims to prevent the proliferation of nuclear weapons through the implementation on a national basis of export controls for nuclear and nuclear-related material, “dual use” material, equipment, software and technology, without hindering international cooperation on peaceful uses of nuclear energy.

The Minister for Disarmament and Arms Control, Hon Georgina te Heuheu, made an opening statement on behalf of the New Zealand Government. The Minister reaffirmed New Zealand’s support for international efforts to avert the proliferation of nuclear weapons and to combat nuclear terrorism. She noted that effective and transparent controls were a practical contribution to nuclear non-proliferation. The Minister commented favourably on the successful review of the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty and stressed the importance of implementing the agreements reached there to turn words into actions.

The NSG took stock of developments since the last meeting in Budapest in 2009. Participating Governments emphasized that challenges remain to the international nuclear non-proliferation regime.

In particular:

- The Group took note of briefings on developments concerning non-NSG states. It agreed on the value of ongoing consultation and transparency.
- The Group continued to consider the implementation of the Statement on Civil Nuclear Cooperation with India. It noted actions taken to adhere to the NSG guidelines and the voluntary commitments made by India.

¹ Argentina, Australia, Austria, Belarus, Belgium, Brazil, Bulgaria, Canada, China, Croatia, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Iceland, 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

- Within the framework of the NSG's mandate, concerns were shared about the proliferation implications of the nuclear tests announced by the Democratic People's Republic of Korea (DPRK) and the implications of Iran's nuclear programme. The NSG reiterated its long-standing support for diplomatic efforts for the solution to the Iranian nuclear issue and for the solution to the DPRK nuclear issue in a peaceful manner.
- Participating Governments exchanged information on positive and negative developments in the nuclear non-proliferation regime, and also focused on specific regions and countries of concern.
- Participating Governments called on all states to exercise vigilance and make best efforts to ensure that none of their exports of goods or technologies contribute to nuclear weapons programs. In view of the growing demand for civil nuclear power, the NSG noted the need to address proliferation concerns without hampering legitimate trade and reaffirmed the importance of licensing and enforcement based on NSG guidelines and control lists.
- The NSG emphasised the importance of keeping its lists up to date with technological developments and agreed to establish a technical group for a fundamental review of these lists.
- Participating Governments agreed to continue considering ways to further strengthen guidelines dealing with the transfer of enrichment and reprocessing technologies.
- The Group discussed practices used by Participating Governments addressing the challenges posed by the intangible transfer of technology and end-use control.
- The meeting gave further consideration to confidentiality and transparency issues. It agreed on guidelines to balance confidentiality with transparency in NSG activities.
- Participating Governments exchanged views on their national implementation of UNSC resolutions relevant to the purposes of the NSG.
- The Plenary received a report on the NSG's outreach programme with non participating governments.
- The scope and form of future outreach programmes were discussed. The Chair and the other NSG members were mandated to continue contacts with non participating governments and International Organisations with a view to informing them on recent developments within the Group, to

assist partners in their efforts to enhance their export controls and to facilitate adherence to the NSG Guidelines.

The Group welcomed the offer of the Netherlands to host the next meeting of the NSG Plenary in June 2011.

Christchurch, 25 June 2010