

PUBLIC STATEMENT
PLENARY MEETING OF THE NUCLEAR SUPPLIERS GROUP
BERN, SWITZERLAND, 22–23 JUNE 2017

The twenty-seventh Plenary Meeting of the Nuclear Suppliers Group (NSG),¹ chaired by Ambassador Benno Laggner of Switzerland, was held in Bern, Switzerland, on 22 and 23 June 2017.

The President of the Swiss Confederation, H.E. Ms. Doris Leuthard, welcomed the Participating Governments on behalf of the Swiss Government and reaffirmed Switzerland's commitment to the work of the Group at a time when the principle of nuclear non-proliferation continued to be at the centre of international stability. The President highlighted the central role of the NSG in international efforts against the spread of nuclear weapons and its contribution to the international nuclear non-proliferation architecture with the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons (NPT) at its centre.

The NSG took stock of developments since the last meeting in Seoul in 2016.

Participating Governments reiterated their firm support for the full, complete and effective implementation of the NPT as the cornerstone of the international non-proliferation regime. Within the framework of the NSG's mandate, the Group exchanged information on and expressed its concerns regarding continued global proliferation activities and reaffirmed its determination to continue to cooperate closely in order to deter, hinder and prevent the transfer of controlled items or technology that could contribute to nuclear weapons or other nuclear explosive devices.

The Participating Governments reconfirmed their commitment to UNSCRs 1718 (2006), 1874 (2009), 2087 (2013), 2094 (2013), 2270 (2016), 2321 (2016) and 2356 (2017), which strongly condemned the DPRK's nuclear tests. Within the framework of the NSG's mandate, the Participating Governments noted that the supply of all NSG controlled items to the DPRK is prohibited according to the abovementioned resolutions.

The NSG welcomed the continued implementation of the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA) concluded by the E3/EU+3 and the Islamic Republic of Iran and endorsed by UNSCR 2231 (2015). Since the last Plenary the NSG continued to receive briefings from the JCPOA Procurement Working Group Coordinator regarding the work of the Procurement Channel established in accordance

¹ The NSG is a Group of 48 nuclear supplier countries that seeks to contribute to the non-proliferation of nuclear weapons through the implementation of two sets of Guidelines for nuclear exports and nuclear-related exports (see www.nuclearsuppliersgroup.org). Currently the participating Governments of the NSG are Argentina, Australia, Austria, Belarus, Belgium, Brazil, Bulgaria, Canada, China, Croatia, Cyprus, the Czech Republic, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Iceland, Ireland, Italy, Japan, Kazakhstan, Republic of Korea, Latvia, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malta, Mexico, the Netherlands, New Zealand, Norway, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Russian Federation, Serbia, Slovakia, Slovenia, South Africa, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, Turkey, Ukraine, the United Kingdom and the United States. The European Commission and the Chair of the Zangger Committee participate as permanent observers.

with the JCPOA and UNSCR 2231. Participating Governments expressed interest in receiving further briefings.

Participating Governments called upon all States to exercise vigilance and to ensure effective implementation of all UNSCRs relevant to the work and purposes of the NSG.

The Group noted the requests for participation that had been submitted.

The NSG had discussions on the issue of “Technical, Legal and Political Aspects of the Participation of non-NPT States in the NSG”. The Group decided to continue its discussion and noted the intention of the Chair to organise an informal meeting in November.

At the Plenary meeting, the NSG also:

- maintained its focus on technical issues important to the implementation of the Control Lists by exchanging views and agreeing on a number of proposals to clarify and update the NSG Control Lists;
- discussed and reaffirmed the significance of updating the NSG Guidelines to keep pace with the evolving global security landscape and a fast-paced nuclear and nuclear-related industry;
- discussed the NSG’s policies regarding transparency and confidentiality;
- discussed and exchanged information and best practices on licensing and enforcement;
- welcomed the growing number of States that have harmonized their national export control systems with the NSG Guidelines and Control Lists;
- took note of a report on outreach to non-NSG participants and agreed on the value of these outreach activities;
- discussed options for enhancing outreach and approved revised guidance for such outreach;
- continued to consider all aspects of the implementation of the 2008 Statement on Civil Nuclear Cooperation with India and discussed the NSG relationship with India.

The NSG Plenary invited all nuclear supplier states to express their responsible approach to nuclear exports by adhering to the NSG Guidelines.

The NSG Plenary thanked Mr. Rich Goorevich for his long-standing service to the Group as Chair of the Consultative Group and appointed Mr. Diego Cándano of Mexico to serve as the new Chair of the Consultative Group.

Bern, 23 June 2017