

Press Statement

The Chairman of the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT) Exporter's Committee is pleased to note that 11 March 2001 marked the 30th anniversary of the first meeting of the group. Known as the Zangger Committee, in honor of its first Chairman Prof. Claude Zangger, the Committee was formed following the coming into force of the NPT, to serve as the "faithful interpreter" of its Article III.2, to harmonize the interpretation of nuclear export control policies for NPT Parties.

The Committee has been focussing on what is meant in Article III.2 of the Treaty by "especially designed or prepared equipment or material for the processing, use or production of special fissionable material." The Zangger Committee maintains a Trigger List (triggering safeguards as a condition of supply) of nuclear-related strategic goods to assist NPT Parties in identifying equipment and materials subject to export controls.

Today the Zangger Committee has 35 members including all the nuclear weapons states. Its Trigger List includes illustrative examples of equipment and materials judged to be within the understandings of the Committee. The Trigger List and the Zangger Committee's understandings are published by the IAEA in the INFCIRC/209 series.

At this time the current Chairman of the Zangger Committee, Dr. Fritz Schmidt of Austria, would like to recognize the important contributions that all members of the Committee have made to strengthening the Committee's understandings and the nuclear nonproliferation regime. In particular, the Committee recognizes its previous Chairmen Dr. Claude Zangger of Switzerland and Ilkka Mäkipentti of Finland; and the U.K. Mission in Vienna, which serves as the Committee's Secretariat.

The development of the Zangger Committee in the past 30 years is evidence of the successful implementation of the NPT and at the same time evidence of the need to review continuously the obligations deriving from the Treaty. In this regard, NPT Parties are encouraged to continue to adapt their national rules and regulations in the light of these developments. At the same time the Committee will continue to foster dialogue with NPT Parties not members of the Committee with the aim of encouraging these countries to participate in continuous dialogue and cooperation.

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