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First Meeting of the Preparatory Committee
for the NPT Review Conference 2005

Cluster II

Statement by

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First Meeting of the Preparatory Committee to the NPT Review Conference 2002

Statement of the Austrian Delegation on *Cluster II*

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(...)

In the area of export controls, Mr. Chairman, my delegation holds the view that the decisive break-through for this field of non-proliferation was the clarification by the NPT sovereign, the Member States, in the NPT Conference 1995, in decision 2, paragraph 12, that the safeguards condition for supplies of sensitive nuclear items should be „full scope safeguards“. Although this interpretation flows directly from the text of Art. III.2, it still took long until it found its way into the Final Document of a Conference. The Austrian delegation in the 2000 Review Conference found it reassuring that, by recalling this Principle 12 of 1995, the NPT States parties endorsed their view on this standard for nuclear export controls for Trigger list items.

In referring to the Trigger list there is a clear link to the work of the Zangger Committee, well known as an informal, technical group of countries regularly involved in nuclear trade, which as early as 1971 was formed by major exporting countries in the nuclear field, with the aim of interpreting what would be the obligations for them, deriving from the export control requirements of Art. III.2 of the NPT.

This interpretation, as published in the IAEA series INFCIRC 209 and subsequently amended several times, has over the years gained wide acceptance. The work of the Zangger Committee was well recognised and welcomed in almost all NPT Review Conferences, and States parties were urged to base their export control policies on the Committee's interpretations of Art. III.2.

Unfortunately such recommendations were not made in the Final Declaration of the Conference in 2000.

There may be different views for why the Zangger Committee failed to be recognised again by the Conference.

What, in the opinion of my delegation is definitely true, is the fact that transparency of the work of the Committee and dialogue and co-operation, as called for in previous Conferences, have to be further enhanced.

Austria is pleased in this regard that the Zangger Committee has adopted a programme for „outreach activities“ that should provide, not only, for information about the Committee's work, but also, and in particular, start dialogue with interested countries to also learn about the views of these countries, who in the past sometimes considered themselves in a pointed form as „victims“ of export controls.

My delegation hopes that the Conference 2005 will not have a problem to again recognise the results of the work of the Zangger Committee as guidance for export control policies. As previous Conferences demanded that the Committee review its interpretation from time to time in order to bring its Understandings in line with technological and other developments, Austria takes note of the on-going work in the Zangger Committee for reviewing the Understandings to take account of developments in the NPT review process.

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