*Speech by Minister Zbigniew Rau*

*/* *Warsaw, June 23, 2022./*

*Distinguished Delegates,*

First of all, let me thank all Participating Governments of the Nuclear Suppliers Group (NSG) for their support offered during Poland`s NSG chairmanship.

I would also like to express my sincere gratitude to Mr. Tomasz Łękarski (and his whole team) for his continuous efforts and involvement in his capacity as Chair of the NSG.

Regretfully, the pandemic cast a shadow over NSG work, making our chairmanship more challenging and demanding.

30 years ago, in 1992, Poland for the first time took the responsibilities of the NSG Chairmanship and invited all Participating Governments to the Warsaw Plenary.

The meeting produced two historic outcomes:

Firstly, the Plenary adopted the “Warsaw Guidelines” for transfers of nuclear-related dual-use equipment, material and related technology, accompanied by the list of nuclear-related dual-use items.

This decision paved the way to the establishment of the dual use regime within the NSG.

Secondly, participants made a clear commitment to a common policy of the application of full-scope Safeguards of the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) on all source and special fissionable materials in States’ all current and future nuclear activities.

It has been henceforth a necessary condition for all significant, new nuclear exports to non-nuclear weapon states.

In a nutshell, the 1992 Plenary was a milestone in the Group's history and in a way our conceptual legacy for it.

Therefore, Poland has been particularly proud and honoured to chair the NSG for the last year, and to host again a plenary meeting in Warsaw.

This engagement reflects our constant dedication to non-proliferation, disarmament and export control.

To keep their integrity and strength these days requires intensive effort.

In the recent years Poland also chaired the Missile Technology Control Regime (MTCR) in 2002 and the Hague Code of Conduct against the proliferation of ballistic missiles(HCoC) in 2017.

Currently, we are a member of the International Atomic Energy AgencyBoard of Governors.

We will also chair the Main Committee Two of the Tenth Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT) Review Conference that will finally take place in August this year.

The portfolio of the Main Committee Two contains *inter alia* export control issues, including information on NSG work by the future NSG Chair.

Our efforts this week will provide a valuable contribution to the discussions later this year in the NPT context.

*Distinguished Delegates,*

The NSG - a crucial export control regime - plays an important role in the non-proliferation system.

Its Guidelines provide an effective control of the transfers of nuclear technologies and materials as well as dual-use items and technologies.

However, we still face proliferation challenges and crises having severe implications for export control regimes. Some of them need to be mentioned here.

The recent worrisome developments marked by the Russian military invasion of Ukraine affect negatively the global security landscape, including the implementation of the NSG Guidelines.

Our stance towards the Russian aggression is clear.

We condemn these unprovoked and unjustified actions which constitute a gross violation of international law.

We call Russia to immediately cease its military actions, withdraw all its troops from the entire territory of Ukraine and fully respect Ukraine’s territorial integrity, sovereignty and independence within its internationally recognised borders.

In the NSG context, these developments pose also a serious nuclear proliferation risk.

They affect safeguards implementation. They also increase the risk of illicit trafficking of nuclear and other radioactive materials, nuclear related dual-use items and technologies as a result of decreased physical security of nuclear installations and materials.

As demonstrated over recent months, North Korea and its nuclear and missiles programs continue to pose a serious proliferation threat not only in the region, but also globally.

Poland consistently calls upon the Pyongyang:

* to engage in denuclearization talks,
* to fully comply with all United Nations Security Council resolutions,
* as well as to return to full compliance with the Non-Proliferation Treaty, including the International Atomic Energy Agency Safeguards system.

Development of Iranian nuclear program is yet another concern for international community.

We hope that Iran will return to negotiations on the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA) in Vienna without any further delay.

It is of utmost importance that Iran reverses all activities inconsistent with the JCPOA and returns to its full implementation, including all transparency measures.

*Distinguished Delegates,*

Despite the challenging security environment, it is my strong conviction that it is indispensable to safeguard and continue the valuable NSG work in the spirit of a constructive multilateral approach.

It remains vital for the working atmosphere in our Group and for the ability to reach consensus on issues which are the essence of the Group’s responsibility in the NPT system.

We should also practice NSG outreach activities to build a solid and sustainable relationship with third countries, broaden understanding of, and promote adherence to the NSG Guidelines.

In conclusion, I would like to thank Belgium, which chaired the Group until the end of previous plenary meeting in Brussels and has participated actively in the current NSG Chair’s outreach activities within Troika.

I appreciate also work done by the Chairs of all NSG working bodies.

As we anticipate the confirmation of the successor to the position of the NSG Chair, I hope for a successful Chairmanship of Argentina throughout the next twelve months.

*Distinguished Delegates,*

During this difficult time the Polish chairmanship was guided by the principles of consensus building, impartiality, openness and transparency.

I am convinced that the trust and clear mandate given to us, along with Participating Governments’ support and constructive spirit, will contribute to a successful plenary meeting in Warsaw.

I wish you a fruitful work and the results as impactful as those achieved thirty years ago.

*Thank you.*