

G-8 Leaders Tackle



Global Energy Security

Summit Endorses IAEA Initiatives in Key Areas

Leaders of the Group of 8 countries backed the IAEA's work at their annual summit held 15-17 July 2006 in St. Petersburg, Russia. A concluding summary statement endorsed IAEA programmes and initiatives in areas of nuclear safety, security, and safeguards.

Global energy security was a major focus of the summit, with G8 leaders agreeing that dynamic and sustainable development of our civilization depends on reliable access to energy. "It is best assured by strengthened partnership between energy producing and consuming countries, including enhanced dialogue on growing energy interdependence, security of supply and demand issues", the statement said.

The G8 nations adopted a St. Petersburg Plan of Action to increase transparency, predictability and stability of the global energy markets, improve the investment climate in the energy sector, promote energy efficiency and energy saving, diversify energy mix, ensure physical safety of critical energy infrastructure, reduce energy poverty and address climate change and sustainable development. Under this plan, G8 nations undertake to reduce barriers to energy investment and trade, making it possible for companies from energy producing and consuming countries to invest in and acquire assets internationally.

G8 countries include Canada, France, Germany, Italy, Japan, the Russian Federation, United Kingdom, and the United States. The European Union also participates in the summit. At the St. Petersburg Summit, leaders of Brazil, China, India, Mexico and South Africa and heads of the African Union, the Commonwealth of Independent States,

the International Energy Agency, the IAEA, the United Nations, UNESCO, the World Bank, the World Health Organization, and the World Trade Organization were invited to participate in the discussions.

In a statement on global energy security, the G8 said countries who have or are considering plans for nuclear energy believe it will contribute to global energy security while reducing air pollution and addressing climate change. The G8 said it acknowledged the efforts made in development by the Generation IV International Forum (GIF) and the IAEA's International Project on Innovative Nuclear Reactors and Fuel Cycles (INPRO). GIF and INPRO both bring together countries to develop next generation nuclear energy systems, including small reactors, very high temperature reactors and supercritical water-cooled reactors.

Recognizing that proliferation of weapons of mass destruction, along with international terrorism, remains the central threat to international peace and security, the G8 nations reaffirmed their determination and commitment to act in concert and together with other States and organizations to fight proliferation of weapons of mass destruction (WMD), including with a view to preventing WMD falling into the hands of terrorists.

The G8 Summit adopted a special statement on non-proliferation, which included:

The Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT)

The G8 reaffirmed its full commitment to all three pillars of the NPT and called on all States to comply with their NPT

The Group of Eight (G8)

is an unofficial forum of the heads of the leading industrialized democracies (Russia, the U.S., Britain, France, Japan, Germany, Canada and Italy), where the European Commission is also represented and fully participates. This forum was designed to harmonize attitudes to acute international problems. The G8 is not an international organization and does not rest on an international agreement nor have formal admission criteria, a charter or a permanent secretariat. Its decisions are formulated as the political commitments of the Member States.

The G8 also has working and expert groups and task forces. As of now, there are the High Level Group on Non-proliferation, the Rome/Lyons Group (on terrorism and organized crime), the Counter-Terrorism Expert Group, the G8 Personal Representatives for Africa, the Global Partnership Senior Officials Group, the G8 Non-proliferation Experts Group (with a plutonium subgroup), the Nuclear Safety and Security Group, and several others. G8 holds an average of 60 to 80 functions annually. The next summit, in 2007, will be hosted by Germany.

obligations, including IAEA safeguards as well as developing effective measures aimed at preventing trafficking in nuclear equipment, technology and materials.

The G8 is seeking universal adherence to IAEA comprehensive safeguards agreements and is actively engaged in efforts to make comprehensive safeguards agreements together with an Additional Protocol the universally accepted verification standard. "We will also work together vigorously to establish the Additional Protocol as an essential new standard in the field of nuclear supply arrangements."

Peaceful Use of Nuclear Energy

The G8 noted that an expansion of the peaceful use of nuclear energy must be carried forward in a manner consistent with nuclear non-proliferation commitments and standards. It discussed concrete proposals on multinational centres to provide nuclear fuel cycle services and recent initiative regarding a concept for a multilateral mechanism for reliable access to enrichment services for nuclear fuel.

G8 nations will continue to discuss these issues jointly with the IAEA to ensure that all States that conscientiously fulfill their non-proliferation obligations have

guaranteed access to the benefits of the peaceful use of nuclear energy.

Nuclear Safety and Security

The G8 supported the Global Initiative to Combat Nuclear Terrorism, announced by Russian Federation President Vladimir Putin and U.S. President George Bush. "We look forward to working together with other like-minded nations and the IAEA to expand and accelerate efforts that develop partnership capacity to combat nuclear terrorism on a determined and systematic basis."

The G8 addressed the proliferation implications of Iran's advanced nuclear programme and confirmed its commitment to see those implications resolved.

G8 leaders also addressed nuclear and other security concerns as well as humanitarian issues regarding North Korea. They expressed support for UN Security Council resolution 1695, condemning North Korea's launches of ballistic missiles and urged the country to re-establish its pre-existing commitment to a moratorium on missile launching and to respond to other security and humanitarian concerns of the international community.

The G8 called upon all States to become parties, as soon as practicable, to the two most recent universal instruments to combat nuclear terrorism; namely, the *International Convention for the Suppression of Act of Nuclear Terrorism*, and the *Amendment to the Convention on the Physical Protection of Nuclear Material*.

They noted the results of the IAEA International Conference "Effective Nuclear Regulatory Systems" held in Moscow in early March. An effective, efficient nuclear regulatory system is essential for our safety and security, they said, re-affirming the importance for national regulators to have sufficient authority, independence, and competence.

Safety & Security of Radioactive Sources

The G8 nations noted progress made to improve controls on radioactive sources and to prevent their unauthorized use. They reaffirmed commitment to fulfill the *IAEA Code of Conduct on the Safety and Security of Radioactive Sources* provisions, working to put into place the controls over the import/export of radioactive sources at the earliest possible date.

They welcomed the fact that more than 83 countries have committed to implement the *IAEA Code of Conduct on the Safety and Security of Radioactive Sources* and urge all other states to adopt the Code. The G8 said it will continue to support international efforts to enhance regulatory controls on radioactive sources, in particular the Regional Model Projects, the IAEA program to help establish effective and sustainable regulatory infrastructures.

Advancing Against Nuclear Terrorism

by Graham Allison

At the St. Petersburg G8 summit in July 2006, Presidents Bush and Putin took three significant steps forward in addressing what each has identified as the single largest threat to his country's national security: nuclear terrorism.

Meeting a day before the summit, Bush and Putin announced a new Global Initiative to Combat Nuclear Terrorism; a plan for multiple, multilateral guaranteed suppliers of nuclear fuel to States that forgo building their own enrichment plants; and a Civil Nuclear Agreement that will lift restrictions on cooperation between the two countries in developing peaceful nuclear power.

Each of these initiatives provides a framework for dozens of specific actions that can measurably reduce the risk of terrorists acquiring a nuclear weapon. Together they suggest that the Bush Administration is finally beginning to see this challenge whole and to develop a comprehensive strategy for addressing it.

The significance of the Global Initiative against Nuclear Terrorism lies not only in its substance but in Russia's visible joint ownership of the Initiative. At a press conference, President Putin led with the Global Initiative and explained it with conviction. After years in which Washington lectured Moscow about this threat, Putin's joint leadership in securing nuclear material worldwide should give added impetus to this undertaking inside Russia as well.

Globally, this initiative calls for work plans in five arenas: prevention, detection, disruption, mitigation of consequences after an attack, and strengthening domestic laws and export controls against future A.Q. Khans. This skeleton has all the required limbs. The test will be how rapidly governments put meat on these bones.

Fortunately, officials at the Departments of State and Energy have already been at work with their Russian counterparts to do that. For example, they have scheduled for autumn 2006 the first-ever joint field exercise that will seek to find and capture hypothetical terrorists who have stolen nuclear material. This will involve Americans and Russians working together in Russia. The Initiative is open to other States prepared to undertake these commitments and we should see new members signing up by year's end.

The guaranteed nuclear fuel supply tightens the noose around Iran as it seeks to exploit a loophole in the global Nuclear

Non-Proliferation Treaty. By guaranteeing States that six separate international suppliers will provide backup guarantees against interruption of supply for any reason other than breach of commitments under the NPT, this proposal eliminates Iran's excuse for Natanz—the enrichment plant it is rushing to finish today. This system for supply will be subject to the supervision by the IAEA, which will also have nuclear fuel reserves that allow it to be a supplier of last resort.

The Civil Nuclear Agreement will allow joint research on next-generation, proliferation-proof reactors, including technologies where Russian science is the best in the world. It will permit sale to Russia of US technologies that can improve the safety and efficiency of Russian nuclear power plants. In time, it will allow Russia to import for safe storage US-origin nuclear waste from power plants in Japan, South Korea and Taiwan.

While several obstacles must be overcome before Russia is open for business, this has the promise to become the largest source of income for Russia's nuclear industry. Requiring that 25% of the profit be spent on sustaining security for all nuclear material would be a classic example of win-win. It will also relieve nuclear power plant operators worldwide of spent fuel that has been accumulating onsite, providing another positive talking point for opponents of nuclear power.

In their Joint Statement, the two Presidents "recognize the devastation that could befall our peoples and the world community if nuclear weapons or materials or other weapons of mass destruction were to fall into the hands of terrorists."

If terrorists succeed in exploding a nuclear bomb in Washington or Moscow or Tel Aviv, the pictures of 9/11 and the London subway bombings will pale. Although pictures of war in the Middle East overshadowed the progress made at this year's G8, Russia and the United States made productive use of the summit as an action-forcing deadline to advance in the war against nuclear terrorism.

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