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**International Nuclear Fuel Cycle Conference: securing safe access to peaceful power  
London, March 17<sup>th</sup> 2009**

Your Excellencies,  
Distinguished Delegates,  
Ladies and Gentlemen,

- It is a great honour to be invited to address such a distinguished audience of experts and decision-makers at the opening of this conference organized by the Government of the United Kingdom.
- The Federal Republic of Germany, the Kingdom of the Netherlands and the United Kingdom are setting an example for a unique cooperation in the area of nuclear fuel supply. They are brought together by the Treaty of Almelo, which forms the basis for their collaboration in uranium enrichment through the joint industrial enterprise known as URENCO. Our cooperation honours the highest non-proliferation standards. As possessors of advanced enrichment technology, we feel a special responsibility to develop further multilateral cooperation in this area.
- The conference we are attending today is a follow-up to the conference on nuclear fuel supply and proliferation the three countries organized in April 2008 in Berlin. At that occasion it was the intention of the three governments to initiate an open dialogue without any preconditions between countries having experience in the use of nuclear energy and fuel cycle activities and those which are planning to use nuclear energy on a wider scale in the future. We successfully brought together representatives from different countries starting from the same goal: More Energy Security without Proliferation.
- As German Foreign Minister Frank-Walter Steinmeier noted at the opening of the Berlin Conference on behalf of the Governments of the Netherlands, the United Kingdom and Germany, **"it is of utmost importance that nuclear energy is used in a safe, secure and peaceful way. The use of nuclear energy is inevitably linked to the threat of proliferation. It is therefore of equal importance that the use of nuclear energy is consistent with the highest non-proliferation standards."**

- And he continued: "**The right to peaceful use of nuclear energy, consistent with non-proliferation obligations, is enshrined in the NPT. We strongly support this right.**"
- The Berlin Conference offered international partners a platform for informed discussion of the issues and options for nuclear fuel supply. It brought together decision-makers, technical experts and potential suppliers of enrichment services. To this end, countries party to the NPT possessing enrichment facilities and major uranium producing countries were invited as well.
- Between today's London Conference and the Berlin Conference less than a year has elapsed. But we have seen a dramatic shift in the state of the world. We have more and more evidence of the rapid impact of climate change and we are confronted with an economic crisis. There can be no doubt: Reliable energy supply is an important factor for social, economic and political development and thus of course for security.
- The central question is how the growing demand for energy can be met on a global scale without compromising other important policy objectives, in particular non-proliferation. Due to the finiteness of fossil fuels, states are increasingly concerned about their ability to meet this demand and to guarantee energy security for their future. This gives security of energy supply an ever more prominent place on the international security agenda. Nothing should be used as a pretext to lose sight of the threat of nuclear proliferation. Even greater efforts must be undertaken to strengthen multilateral cooperation in such a situation.
- Some people, with the intrinsic dangers of nuclear energy in mind hoped the growing interest in nuclear energy would go away. They were proved wrong. Since the Berlin Conference the interest in nuclear energy has been growing considerably. If all announced projects for the building of nuclear power plants would materialize we will have to answer to a growing demand in nuclear fuel and enrichment services. Also the back-end of the fuel cycle will become a more burning issue.
- Until Berlin the debate on multilateral nuclear approaches was hampered by the fear of some states that technology holders might intend to limit their inalienable right to peaceful uses of nuclear energy. The Berlin Conference restarted the debate, as one delegation noted in its concluding remarks – a delegation which before considered the proposals on fuel supply as: "Suspicious". A lack of trust seemed to haunt the debate. We agree that there exists still a definite need to better explain our ideas and to

overcome the remaining doubts. It was and is our intention to engage with all interested parties to overcome this lack of trust.

- In Berlin we heard proposals for general principles for the discussion of nuclear fuel supply, including:
  - Nuclear fuel supply must be dealt with in a multilateral, collective, inclusive, transparent and pondered manner. No pre-packaged solutions.
  - Fuel supply initiatives must be protected from political interference, with no single state or group of states having veto power over the supply of nuclear fuel.
  - Fuel supply initiatives should adopt an incentive based approach.
  - Fuel supply initiatives should under no circumstances contribute to a situation that leads to a monopoly on nuclear technology or precipitates to a situation of dependence.
  - And fuel supply initiatives must develop in a context in which verifiable and irreversible nuclear disarmament becomes a reality.
- My delegation shares the above-mentioned principles. It also shares the principles described by the Director General of the IAEA. Germany will continue to participate in the debate without any preconditions.
- The German proposal of a Multilateral Enrichment Sanctuary Project MESP is entirely in line with the above-mentioned principles.
  - It is not a prefabricated solution.
  - It is a multilateral and transparent scheme.
  - It is aimed at reducing political interference as far as possible.
  - It provides an incentive by making modern enrichment technology available for every state in compliance with its existing obligations.
  - It helps to broaden the market and its geographical base.

- After having elaborated more and more details of the German proposal and tested its legal soundness we are convinced that it is a viable alternative and an interesting offer. MESP will lead to the common goal of **More Energy Security without Proliferation**.
- Germany notes with gratitude that the UK has pursued its proposal of **Nuclear Fuel Assurances**. Germany welcomes these efforts as the Nuclear Fuel Assurances could become an important element of a new architecture for reliable nuclear fuel supply.
- Germany will examine how it could help the implementation of NFA in close cooperation with the Netherlands and the UK, and will study whether it could offer similar assurances of supply in order to put them on a broader basis.

Your Excellency, Ambassadors, distinguished delegates, let me conclude as follows:

- The high-profile conference of today shows that awareness has grown of the need to overcome the gap between the technology holders and countries newly interested in nuclear energy. Transparency with regard to all aspects of nuclear fuel supply will help to build the necessary trust and lay the foundation for an increased cooperation whilst respecting the interests and the rights of all parties concerned. The Berlin conference was a first step. London is a second one.
- I am convinced that over the last months in all interested countries experts have assessed the situation and clarified their positions. Berlin, London and a series of follow-up conferences will lay the foundation for a future architecture of secure, proliferation-proof nuclear fuel supply for all interested countries. My Government, the nuclear industry of my country and German experts stand ready to engage in detailed discussions and to share our experience. We also stand ready to support first concrete steps like the set-up of an IAEA nuclear fuel bank.
- We hope others will support our efforts in the direction of increasing energy supply security while minimizing the risk of proliferation.
- Thank you for your attention.