

On the specific question of possible options for dealing with fissile material designated as no longer required for defence purposes, including - for plutonium - safe and secure long-term storage, vitrification or other methods of permanent disposal, or conversion into mixed-oxide fuel (MOX) for use in nuclear reactors, they reached a common understanding on :

- the urgent need to identify appropriate strategies and to share relevant experience and expertise to elaborate and implement these strategies ;
- their willingness to undertake small-scale technology demonstrations; and.
- the convening of an international meeting of experts to examine available options and possible development of international cooperation in the implementation of these national strategies. Such a meeting should take place by the end of 1996.

Criteria for selecting appropriate national strategies for managing fissile material designated as no longer required for defence purposes, including safe and secure long-term storage, vitrification or other methods of permanent disposal, or conversion into mixed-oxide fuel (MOX) for use in nuclear reactors, were identified as :

- * reduction of the risk of proliferation of nuclear weapons or other nuclear explosive devices ;
- * effective transformation of the material into spent fuel or other forms equally unusable for nuclear weapons or other nuclear explosive devices ;
- * speed with which stockpiles of fissile material designated as no longer required for defence purposes are reduced ;
- * safety, physical protection, environmental protection ; and
- * other costs and benefits involved.