

**Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons
Review Conference
(New York, April 27 – May 22, 2026)**

**Statement by Ambassador Anne Lazar-Sury
Head of the French Delegation
(New York, May 1st, 2026)**

Pillar I – Nuclear Disarmament

Mr. Chair,

France aligns with the statement of the European Union and would like to add a few points on behalf of my country.

The rapid deterioration of the strategic and security environment reminds us of the importance of upholding the centrality and primacy of the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons (NPT), the cornerstone of the international security architecture. This treaty, based on a phased approach that takes the strategic context into account, is the only instrument capable of enabling us to achieve our nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation objectives through relevant verification measures grounded in a robust regime.

From a geopolitical perspective, we are currently experiencing a major shift that entails specific risks.

On the European continent, Russia pursues its war of aggression in flagrant violation of international law and the principles of the United Nations Charter. It increasingly employs dilatory tactics in response to peace overtures from the United States and Ukraine. It embraces brutal imperialism and continues to develop new weapons, including a particularly dangerous project to place nuclear weapons in outerspace.

China, for its part, produces today more weapons than any other country. Even recently it exhibited the latest upgrades of its nuclear triad.

Generally speaking, nuclear threats are growing, diversifying, and becoming more interconnected. These observations have led France to adapt its nuclear posture, as the President of the Republic outlined in his statement at l'île Longue on March 2.

Mr. Chair,

Despite this deteriorating situation, France remains driven by the ultimate goal of a world free of nuclear weapons, while upholding the principle of undiminished security for all. It has demonstrated a steadfast commitment to fulfilling its obligations under Article VI of the NPT.

In this regard, I would first like to highlight the major unilateral measures taken by France since the 1990s: a 50% reduction in France's nuclear arsenal, the complete dismantlement of our ground-to-ground nuclear component, a one-third reduction in our submarine and airborne components, and the irreversible dismantling of fissile material production facilities for nuclear weapons and the

Pacific test site. France has always treated the issue of the impact of nuclear testing with the utmost seriousness and respect, notably by establishing a compensation scheme for victims of testing in Algeria and French Polynesia under the “Morin” Law of January 5, 2010.

I would also like to recall the negative security assurances granted by France to all non-nuclear-weapon States parties to the NPT that respect their non-proliferation commitments. France is thus a party to nearly all the protocols to treaties establishing nuclear-weapon-free zones (NWFZ); it supports the creation of a zone free of weapons of mass destruction in the Middle East and reiterates its willingness to move forward with the *ASEAN* states toward the signature of the protocol to the Bangkok Treaty.

Mr. Chair,

Under the current circumstances, we must be realistic about the goals that can be achieved by this Conference. Reaching gradual and concrete milestones remains the surest path to make progress toward nuclear disarmament. This is the very purpose of the five-point roadmap proposed by the minister for Europe and Foreign Affairs at the opening of this conference.

First, intensify work on concrete measures to reduce strategic risks, among nuclear-weapon states, but also with non-nuclear-weapon states, to build confidence and reduce the risks of escalation.

Second, the States concerned must declare and maintain a moratorium on the production of fissile material for nuclear weapons, until the launch of negotiations at the Conference on Disarmament on an FMCT treaty, based on document CD/1299 and the mandate contained therein. This treaty is the only credible path to ending the arms race and moving toward nuclear disarmament.

Third, preserve the objective of the CTBT's entry into force as soon as possible, by promoting the adoption by nuclear-weapon states of voluntary measures to strengthen verification of nuclear tests. We reaffirm our full support for the CTBTO and its international monitoring system, as well as for the maintenance of moratoriums on nuclear testing.

Four, support the launch of multilateral discussions on strategic stability proposed by the United States, with a view to establishing a new security framework in the future, including with consideration of nuclear capabilities—but on the condition that these discussions take place on an equitable basis, given that countries such as France and the United Kingdom are in a radically different situation from other nuclear-weapon states with disproportionate arsenals.

Fifth, strengthen transparency within the review cycle to enable better monitoring of commitments taken under the Treaty's three pillars, including nuclear disarmament.

We hope that the work of this conference will reflect these key steps.

Thank you./.