

Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons

Review Conference

(New York, 27 April – 22 May 2026)

Statement by Ambassador Anne Lazar-Sury

Head of the French Delegation

(New York, 5 May 2026)

Main Committee III – Peaceful Uses and Other Provisions of the Treaty

Mr Chair,

I would like to congratulate you on your election and assure you of my delegation's full support. The French delegation fully endorses the statement delivered on behalf of the European Union.

Mr Chair,

The development of peaceful applications of nuclear energy and access to its benefits constitute a key objective of the NPT. All States Parties to the Treaty are entitled to this, provided they comply with their international non-

proliferation obligations. Our Minister's participation in this review conference demonstrates France's full commitment to this third pillar.

Convinced of the benefits of nuclear energy, France hosted the Nuclear Energy Summit organised by the President of the French Republic in Paris on March 10, in cooperation with the IAEA. The general declarations on nuclear financing adopted on that occasion demonstrate the collective will to develop and finance this source of electricity, which is among the most carbon-free.

Mr Chair,

France has an energy mix with the highest proportion of nuclear-generated electricity in the world. It possesses all the knowledge and expertise required to implement a nuclear programme, from reactors and the associated fuel cycle through to the safe and sustainable management of radioactive waste.

France is convinced that innovation is a key factor in the development of nuclear energy. That is why it is investing in the development of SMR and Advanced Modular Reactor (AMR) technologies and in the construction of the Jules Horowitz research reactor.

Mr Chair,

Forty years after the Chernobyl accident, France promotes the highest standards of nuclear safety and security, which, far from being constraints, constitute an essential framework for the development of the peaceful uses of nuclear energy, playing a major role in social, economic and human development.

France supports the development of expertise and a culture of nuclear safety and security by hosting internships, visits, technical meetings and training courses, in conjunction with the IAEA, which is crucial in the context of the nuclear industry's revival.

That is why France supports the universalisation of international conventions on nuclear safety and security and encourages all States that have not yet done so to accede to these instruments.

Mr Chair,

The Chernobyl Shelter, built between 2007 and 2019 to facilitate the decommissioning of the reactor at the power plant that suffered an accident in 1986, was severely damaged by a Russian drone strike in February 2025. In this regard, the French G7 Presidency is committed this year, in close collaboration with the EBRD, Ukraine and all donor countries, to raising the funds needed to carry out the major safety works required by 2030.

Since 2022, we have observed that the safety and security of nuclear power plants can be compromised. We call for the utmost caution regarding military operations taking place in the immediate vicinity of operational power plants or infrastructure essential to their safe operation. France wishes to reiterate its commitment to the provisions of international humanitarian law. It is essential that these rules be fully respected by all parties concerned. Furthermore, we reiterate our support for the seven pillars set out by the Director General of the IAEA to the United Nations Security Council in March 2022.

Thank you./.