



**Third Preparatory Committee for the 2020 Review Conference
of the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons
(New York, 29 April – 10 May, 2019)**

**Statement by H. E. Yann Hwang
Permanent Representative of France to the Conference on Disarmament,
Chief of the French Delegation
New York, 6th May 2019**

PEACEFUL USES

Mr. President,

The French delegation fully associates itself with the statement of the European Union. I would like to make the following additional remarks in my national capacity.

Mr. President,

The development of civil nuclear cooperation is one of the fundamental objectives of the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons. Any State pursuing nuclear activities for peaceful purposes in good faith must be able to benefit from the provisions of Article IV of the Treaty, while respecting the highest standards of non-proliferation, safety, security and respect for the environment.

France, which masters all nuclear technologies, for energy production as well as for many other applications, is fully committed to the implementation of these provisions. Its action is part of both a multilateral framework, in particular within the IAEA, and an active policy of bilateral cooperation. All French civil nuclear facilities are placed under the control of EURATOM or the IAEA.

Mr. President,

First of all, in the energy sector, nuclear energy, which is a very low-carbon energy, makes an important contribution to the fight against climate change and to the achievement of the objectives of the Paris Climate Agreement. It will remain a significant component of the overall energy mix under all scenarios.

In France, nuclear energy remains the main component of the electricity mix, the French nuclear power plants fleet being one of the largest in the world. The national energy program provides for a precise timetable for the implementation of the energy transition law, which increases the share of nuclear energy to 50% of the electricity mix and provides for the further development of renewable energies. In this context, France should benefit in the long term from a totally carbon-free electricity mix.

To achieve this, France can now rely on a renovated industrial sector. Alongside EDF, ORANO specialises in activities related to the upstream and downstream aspects of the fuel cycle. Framatome, placed under the control of EDF, focuses on the design and supply of nuclear boilers and associated nuclear equipment. As a result of this process, the French nuclear sector is now stronger, both for its national needs and in the context of international cooperation.

Mr. President,

In full compliance with the provisions of Article IV of the NPT, France is developing strategic partnerships with a large number of States interested in the development of nuclear energy. This type of cooperation, which is by nature based on a commitment from national authorities, cannot be conceived without a strict intergovernmental agreements framework. To this end, we are presenting, together with other partners, a working document on the framework for peaceful nuclear cooperation, which will also be the subject of a side-event on 7 May.

This is also an opportunity for me to reaffirm France's commitment to making its skills and infrastructure available. In this regard, I would like to mention the entry into service in France of a new reactor for teaching in augmented virtual reality. This tool, called EVOC, is the first of its kind in the world and was developed in cooperation between the Institut National des Sciences et Techniques Nucléaires and the CEA. It complements the French supply offer developed by the CEA since 2015 as part of the IAEA's ICERR program.

Among the activities developed by France at the international level, training assistance is the subject of a particular effort, given the complexity of nuclear technologies and the advanced skills they require. Our two training institutes, I2EN and INSTN, contribute to the training of a large number of foreign students.

Dear Mr. President,

The benefits of the atom go far beyond the sole purpose of electricity production and cover an extremely wide spectrum of potential applications in fields such as health, the environment, agriculture, industry or the protection of cultural heritage. The Ministerial Conference on Nuclear Science and Technology organized by the IAEA in November 2018 highlighted the benefits that the entire international community derives from the shared development of peaceful uses of the atom.

France is aware that this is an area of action where the needs and expectations of a large number of States are very high. In this regard, I would like to recall that France is one of the main contributors to the Agency's technical cooperation fund and that it systematically pays its contribution to the said fund within the set deadlines.

France also provides specific support for projects targeting three priorities: the fight against cancer, the measurement of ocean acidification caused by global warming and the implementation of sterile insect technology. France is also working to promote the use of nuclear techniques for the preservation of cultural and natural heritage.

In the medical field, the added value of nuclear techniques is undeniable and should play a particular role with the advent of the medicine of the future. They already play a major role in

the treatment or diagnosis of many diseases. In the future, they will make it possible to evaluate and monitor the response to innovative personalised treatments, to deploy new approaches combining diagnosis and targeted radionuclide therapies or to adapt certain treatments according to individual radiosensitivity. France is supporting the development of the IAEA's expertise, which will be essential in the future to support the deployment of this personalized and individualized medicine.

Mr. President,

Strengthening nuclear safety and security is essential for the responsible and sustainable development of the peaceful uses of nuclear energy worldwide.

France recognizes the central role of the IAEA in the international nuclear security architecture and calls for continued international cooperation in this field. An act of nuclear or radiological terrorism would have a significant impact on the development of peaceful uses of nuclear energy and public confidence in nuclear energy.

To this end, it is essential to universalize existing legal instruments in these areas. The responsible development of nuclear energy implies that any State must accede to these legal instruments and implement them.

France invites all States Parties to the NPT to submit their national safety and security arrangements to external expertise within the valuable framework provided by the IAEA. With the accession to the relevant international conventions, including those in the field of civil liability, in the absence of which no international cooperation should be undertaken, this type of approach contributes greatly to strengthening the culture of nuclear safety and security, and to confidence between States.

Thank you, Mr. President./.