(Translated from the French)

Speech by H.E. Mr. Eric Danon
Ambassador, Permanent Representative of France to the
Conference on Disarmament, at the final Plenary Session
of the NPT Review Conference

New York, 28 May 2010

My country welcomes the adoption by our Review Conference of a Final Document that contains an ambitious roadmap capable of giving renewed stimulus to the crucially important NPT Treaty. My delegation would like to thank you, Mr. President, as well as your entire team and the Chairs of the Committees and Subsidiary Organs for your tireless efforts to ensure the success of the Conference. I also wish to address my colleagues who are present here today and helped, at the eleventh hour, prevent final document negotiations being reopened. I am aware of, and fully appreciate, their efforts to that end.

Mr. President, our success is a collective one. This is a major outcome for our efforts to achieve non-proliferation, disarmament, development of civil nuclear energy and our collective security. It bears witness to the international community's commitment to the Treaty.

The action plans we agreed provide us with an ambitious and concrete and balanced approach for the years to come. Naturally, regarding certain points, we would have liked to go further, for example as regards our necessary response to the Iranian and North Korean proliferation crises.

More importantly, however, this agreement has enabled us to assert a strong political will on the part of the international community, the will to seek a safer world.
As my delegation stressed during the Conference, words are not enough. The time is ripe for all of us to take action. By responding firmly to proliferation crises and supporting action on the part of the IAEA and the Security Council to counter proliferation; by pursuing our concrete efforts to achieve nuclear disarmament and mobilizing in unison in all other disarmament areas as called for by the Treaty; by co-operating in the responsible development of civil nuclear energy. We also strongly hope that the planned Middle East conference will take place, as this would help advance the implementation of Resolution 1995. Alongside its European Union partners, France is prepared to work actively in all those areas, with all of you, in the months and the years to come.