



FranceTNP2010
Turning commitments into actions
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NUCLEAR DISARMAMENT: FRANCE'S CONCRETE COMMITMENT
- DISMANTLING THE PACIFIC TEST CENTRE -

Working paper submitted by France

France is the only nuclear-weapon State to have shut down and dismantled irreversibly its nuclear testing site.

Cessation of nuclear testing

In 1996, France permanently ended its nuclear testing. France decided to immediately and completely dismantle the Pacific Test Centre sites (CEP) on the Mururoa and Fangataufa atolls, located in the South Pacific.

Dismantling

In 1996, dismantling work started. Infrastructures were taken down, buildings which had no further use or which were susceptible to rapid deterioration were destroyed and cleanup operations were undertaken to eliminate any radiological risk. By 1998, the dismantling of the Pacific Test Centre was completed. France is the only nuclear-weapon State to have dismantled its test site in a transparent and irreversible manner. France no longer retains the capacity to carry out further nuclear testing.

Monitoring the atolls

In 1998, a mission of international experts, operating under the guidance of the IAEA, visited the site and concluded that the atolls do not represent a radiological risk for the Polynesian population, nor is there any geophysical risk and they concluded that no special remedial action or monitoring was necessary. France, however, has decided to continue monitoring.

Support for the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty (CTBT) and for nuclear tests monitoring

France was the first nuclear-weapon State, together with the United Kingdom, to sign the CTBT on September 24, 1996 and to ratify it on April 6, 1998. It campaigns actively on the international stage for the universal ratification of the Treaty and its entry into force as rapidly as possible. It jointly chaired with Morocco the “Article XIV Conference” on 24 and 25 September 2009 with a view to facilitating the entry into force of the CTBT.

France actively participates in implementing a verification system for the Treaty by building 16 CTBT monitoring stations in France and 8 stations abroad. With its European partners, France finances actions such as training, performance improving in the verification system and technical assistance to third countries (for more than €5 million since 2006).

European Union efforts

The Action Plan on disarmament, adopted during the French presidency of the European Union in December 2008, proposes:

- **universal ratification of the CTBT** and completion of its **verification** regime,
- **dismantling**, as soon as possible, **of all nuclear testing facilities**, in a manner that is transparent and open to the international community.