

# CONFERENCE ON DISARMAMENT

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**LETTER DATED 17 FEBRUARY 2003 FROM THE PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF FRANCE AND THE PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF THE RUSSIAN FEDERATION TO THE CONFERENCE ON DISARMAMENT ADDRESSED TO SECRETARY-GENERAL OF THE CONFERENCE TRANSMITTING THE TEXT OF THE FRENCH-RUSSIAN DECLARATION ON STRATEGIC ISSUES SIGNED ON 10 FEBRUARY 2003 IN PARIS**

We have the honour to forward to you the French and Russian versions of the text entitled "French-Russian declaration on strategic issues", signed on 10 February 2003 by the President of the French Republic and the President of the Russian Federation.

We would be grateful if you could have this declaration issued and circulated as an official document of the Conference on Disarmament.

*(Signed):* Hubert de LA FORTELLE  
Ambassador  
Permanent Representative of  
France to the Conference on  
Disarmament

*(Signed):* Leonid SKOTNIKOV  
Ambassador  
Permanent Representative of the  
Russian Federation to the  
Conference on Disarmament

**FRENCH-RUSSIAN DECLARATION ON STRATEGIC ISSUES, ISSUED ON THE OCCASION OF THE STATE VISIT TO FRANCE OF MR. VLADIMIR PUTIN, PRESIDENT OF THE RUSSIAN FEDERATION**

**Paris, Monday, 10 February 2003**

The proliferation of weapons of mass destruction and their means of delivery pose a growing threat to international peace and stability.

This threat necessitates a global response.

In this context, France and Russia, both permanent members of the United Nations Security Council, are determined to continue exercising to the full the responsibilities placed on them for the furtherance of the law and regional and international stability and security, by continuing and strengthening their cooperation designed to combat the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction.

France and Russia reaffirm the need to make full use of, and to strengthen, the mechanisms which the international community has at its disposal in this area. They stress that the concerned States and international organizations should make active endeavours to ensure strict compliance with the existing international norms and obligations, to control exports of sensitive materials and to continue practical cooperation with a view to preventing the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction and the materials and technology necessary for their production.

France and Russia are convinced that no tolerance should be shown towards those who fail to abide by their obligations in this area.

During the extended discussions in the French-Russian Council for Security Cooperation, they decided to set up a bilateral group of experts on the non-proliferation of weapons of mass destruction and their means of delivery. This group will meet regularly to consider all relevant issues and to provide the proper coordination and necessary impetus for joint action by the two countries.

France and Russia accord particular importance to preventing terrorists or those who harbour them from having access to weapons of mass destruction and materials necessary for their production. To this end, they reaffirm their commitment to the Global Partnership against the Spread of Weapons and Materials of Mass Destruction agreed upon at the G8 summit in Kananaskis. France and Russia have undertaken to make a substantial contribution to the practical implementation of the Global Partnership over the next 10 years, to the tune of 2 billion dollars for Russia and 750 million dollars for France.

Our two countries note the importance of stepping up their efforts to translate the political agenda of the Global Partnership forged at the Kananaskis Summit into specific projects. In this context, Russia expresses its support for the goals espoused by the French presidency of the G8.

France and Russia regard the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty as the keystone of the international nuclear non-proliferation regime. They stress the importance of strict compliance by all States parties with its provisions. They attach particular importance to the NPT review process and are determined to coordinate their efforts and to work together to ensure the success of the 2005 NPT Review Conference.

France and Russia call upon all States which have not yet done so to accede to the additional protocol to their safeguards agreement with IAEA.

The Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty is a key element in the domain of nuclear disarmament and nuclear non-proliferation. France and Russia call upon all countries, in particular those on which the entry into force of the Treaty hinges, to sign and ratify the Treaty as soon as possible. Pending its entry into force, France and Russia call for continued observance of the moratorium on test explosions of nuclear weapons or any other nuclear explosions.

The commencement, without further delay, of negotiations in the Conference on Disarmament on a treaty banning the production of fissile material for nuclear weapons, as part of a balanced programme of work for the Conference, is the shared aspiration of both France and Russia.

France and Russia believe that the earliest entry into force and implementation of the United States-Russian Strategic Arms Reduction Treaty would be sure to make a long-term contribution to nuclear disarmament and international stability.

France and Russia stress the importance of strict compliance with the Biological Weapons Convention. They shall continue to participate actively in multilateral efforts designed to strengthen the Convention regime. France and Russia call upon countries which have not yet done so to accede to the Convention at their earliest opportunity.

France and Russia attach great importance to the implementation of the Chemical Weapons Convention. They call upon countries which have not yet done so to accede to the Convention at their earliest opportunity. All States which possess stockpiles of chemical weapons should take steps to destroy them.

The peaceful use of outer space should be assured for the benefit and in the interests of all. France and Russia reaffirm that the prevention of an arms race in outer space is a matter of strategic importance. France and Russia call for the immediate commencement of work on this issue in the Conference on Disarmament, as part of a balanced programme of work. They reaffirm the usefulness of confidence-building measures in this area.

France and Russia welcome the launching of the Hague International Code of Conduct against Ballistic Missile Proliferation. They shall continue their efforts to ensure implementation of the Hague Code of Conduct and to secure the involvement in the Code of States with nuclear weapon capability which have not yet joined it. The Code of Conduct marks the first step on the path to a broad, legally binding instrument.

France and the Russian Federation reaffirm the role of the United Nations Security Council in efforts to combat the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction. They therefore favour the holding of a summit of Security Council members, which would have a dual mandate: to appraise political efforts to further the cause of non-proliferation and to give decisive impetus to those efforts.

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