

# CONFERENCE ON DISARMAMENT

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**LETTER DATED 10 SEPTEMBER 2003 FROM THE PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF FRANCE TO THE CONFERENCE ON DISARMAMENT ADDRESSED TO THE SECRETARY-GENERAL OF THE CONFERENCE TRANSMITTING THE FRENCH VERSION OF THE STATEMENT MADE BY MR. RENAUD MUSELIER, SECRETARY OF STATE FOR FOREIGN AFFAIRS, TO THE CONFERENCE ON FACILITATING THE ENTRY INTO FORCE OF THE COMPREHENSIVE NUCLEAR-TEST-BAN TREATY, HELD IN VIENNA ON 3 SEPTEMBER 2003**

I have the honour to forward to you the French version of the statement made by Mr. Renaud Muselier, Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs, to the Conference on Facilitating the Entry into Force of the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty, held in Vienna on 3 September 2003.

I would be grateful if you would distribute this statement as an official document of the Conference on Disarmament.

*(Signed):* François Rivasseau  
Permanent Representative to the  
Conference on Disarmament

**Annex**

**STATEMENT MADE BY MR. RENAUD MUSELIER, SECRETARY  
OF STATE FOR FOREIGN AFFAIRS, TO THE CONFERENCE  
ON FACILITATING THE ENTRY INTO FORCE OF THE  
COMPREHENSIVE NUCLEAR-TEST-BAN TREATY**

**VIENNA, 3 SEPTEMBER 2003**

Mr. President,

Allow me first of all to congratulate you on your election as President of the Conference, and to assure you of my delegation's full support. France wholly endorses the statement made by the representative of Italy on behalf of the European Union, the future members and the associated States.

Mr. President,

In 1996, at the time of the conclusion of the Treaty, we introduced into the preamble the idea that the international situation at the time offered us an opportunity to take new steps in the field of disarmament and non-proliferation.

Since then, new threats to international peace and security have arisen in various places on our planet.

The proliferation of weapons of mass destruction, terrorism and regional crises constitute growing dangers for the international community. Far from discouraging us, or driving us to fatalism in a world beyond our control, these new challenges should increase our resolve to work for the strengthening of the non-proliferation regime.

Collective security and strategic stability are being called into question by the efforts of some countries to stockpile weapons of mass destruction, in breach of their international commitments.

At Evian last June, the member countries of the G8 decided to confront resolutely the threat posed to all by the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction.

At the European Council meeting in Thessaloniki, the heads of State and Government of the Union demonstrated the same resolve. They pointed to the link between appropriate measures aimed at general and complete disarmament and non-proliferation objectives.

Creating the conditions for the entry into force of the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty - the purpose of our conference - forms part of this same determination.

Further efforts in this direction, within a multilateral framework, are a decisive element in our struggle against the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction.

Mr. President,

Given the number of States that have signed and ratified the Treaty, it is now close to universality. Meanwhile, the Provisional Technical Secretariat of the CTBT Preparatory Commission has made remarkable progress in putting the international monitoring system into operation.

I would like to pay tribute to the efforts and commitment of the staff involved.

An effective and dissuasive universal verification system is thus taking shape, greatly enhancing our ability to prevent the proliferation of nuclear weapons. The International Monitoring System can also provide scientists everywhere with a precise and reliable tool for measuring natural phenomena in the geosphere.

France fully appreciates this progress, and again calls on the States that have not yet signed or ratified the Treaty to unite their efforts with those of the rest of the international community.

This appeal, which is also made on behalf of the European Union, is addressed more particularly to the countries whose ratification is necessary under article XIV of the Treaty.

Mr. President,

France is aware of all the implications of its ratification of the Treaty. The major decisions it has taken include the closure and dismantling of its test site in the Pacific.

It has also adopted major unilateral disarmament measures, and has embarked on the dismantling of its enrichment plant at Pierrelatte and its reprocessing plant in Marcoule.

France is working tirelessly, within the European Union and outside, to promote the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty and secure its entry into force.

My country has made its expertise and its technologies available to the Organization since its establishment.

France is also hosting 16 stations forming part of the International Monitoring System, thus making a practical contribution to the establishment of the verification regime.

Mr. President,

This conference is to put forward a number of measures to promote the entry into force of the Treaty. They will contribute to nuclear disarmament in the context of general and complete disarmament, under strict and effective international control.

France wishes the conference every success in its work.

The proliferation of weapons of mass destruction is one of the most serious threats of our time. In the face of this threat, unity, a sense of responsibility and the will of the States meeting in Vienna today to take action have the force of example.

Thank you.

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