

**STATEMENT OF MR. JEAN-MICHEL DESPAX,  
CHARGÉ D'AFFAIRES A.I.,**

**DEPUTY PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF FRANCE  
TO THE CONFERENCE ON DISARMAMENT**

**IN PLENARY SESSION OF THE CONFERENCE ON DISARMAMENT**

**- Negative security assurances -**

**Geneva, 7 July 2005**

Mr Chairman,

You invited us to dedicate five plenary sessions in order to approach major issues of the Disarmament Conference. Today, it is the fifth and last session dedicated to the issue of negative security assurances.

In May 2005, at the seventh Review Conference of NPT in New York, the European Union spoke unanimously about the issue of security assurances and nuclear weapon free zones (NWFZ), I am quoting : "call Nuclear Weapons States to reaffirm security assurances of United Nations given in its resolution 984 (1995) and to sign and to ratify pertinent protocols concerning nuclear weapon free zones, established after the completion of required consultations by recognising that its areas have security assurances in the form of treaties." (End of quotation).

Mr Chairman,

Basically, the position of my delegation is well known. In the search of reinforcement of security assurances beyond arrangements taken in 1995, France is in favour of a regional approach through the creation of nuclear weapon free zones. This approach, which consists to research a political solution to regional tensions, latent or open conflicts in order to allow progresses in the matter of security, so disarmament and non-proliferation, is the most realistic. In this way, France took actively part in the elaboration of main principles accepted by

consensus in 1999 by the Disarmament Commission. France signed and ratified all pertinent Protocols to the Treaties of Tlatelolco, Rarotonga and Pelindaba. Concerning this last Treaty, we are encouraging African Countries to entry it into force as soon as possible, so that safeguards given by the Nuclear Weapons States could produce their all effects. Together with the other Nuclear Weapons States, France is continuing discussions with the States Parties of the Treaty of Bangkok by relating Protocol. France is waiting for the response of nuclear weapon free countries in South-East Asia in order to restart negotiations surrounding this Protocol.

In addition, France has faith in the continuation of consultation between the P5 and the Five Central Asia States about the constitution of a nuclear weapon free zone in this area.

Mr Chairman,

At the beginning of our session of 2005, elements of consideration put forward by the Ambassador Chris Sanders approach, in a procedural point of view, the start of works at the Disarmament Conference surrounding negative security assurances. My delegation has taken note that that the document "Food for Thought" is clearly declaring itself in favour of a duty of discussion, what was not the case in the letter of the previous mandate.

This evolution is going down the right road. As I already had the opportunity to make it clear, my delegation is not opposed to the treatment of negative security assurances at the Disarmament Conference in the appropriated framework, and is ready in the line of the European common position to go deeper into our consultations about this issue in order to take part in an overall agreement about a work programme.

Mr Chairman,

I thank you.