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## **STATEMENT BY THE DELEGATION OF FRANCE AT THE MEETING OF THE OSCE FORUM FOR SECURITY CO-OPERATION**

28 April 2010

### **In response to the statement by Ambassador Tibor Tóth, Executive Secretary of the Preparatory Commission of the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty Organization**

France fully supports Spain's remarks on behalf of the Presidency of the European Union. Permit me, nevertheless, speaking for my country, to say a few brief words.

I should like first of all to thank both Ambassador Tibor Tóth for having taken the time to speak to us and the Hungarian Chairmanship of the Forum for Security Co-operation for giving us this opportunity to discuss the role of the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty.

On 24 and 25 September 2009 France and Morocco jointly chaired in New York the sixth Conference on Facilitating the Entry into Force of the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty (also known as the Article XIV Conference), which provided an opportunity for the entire international community to demonstrate, through the adoption of a final declaration, its interest in the questions of nuclear non-proliferation and disarmament. This very large-scale participation by States at the highest level was a powerful expression in favour of the rapid entry into force of the Treaty.

France and Morocco have subsequently drawn up in close collaboration with the CTBTO an action plan designed to promote the universality of the Treaty and facilitate its entry into force. This action plan has begun to be implemented with respect to African and Pacific countries with a view to achieving 160 ratifications (in comparison with the 151 today, as noted by Ambassador Toth) between now and the non-proliferation treaty review conference in May 2010.

France fully endorses the efforts of the CTBTO to raise an awareness of these issues and intends to lend its support to the various seminars organized or financed by the Technical Secretariat. This support is also part of the efforts of the European Union, which is helping to strengthen the verification system described by Ambassador Tóth and is supporting the CTBTO Preparatory Commission.