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Forum on Peaceful Use of Nuclear Energy and Nuclear Non Proliferation

Panel 3.1: Importance of Ensuring Nuclear Non-Proliferation in Peaceful Nuclear Energy Cooperation

French Position and Propositions for Newcomers

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One daunting challenge for the future : accompany “newcomers” on their path towards the development of nuclear energy on their soil



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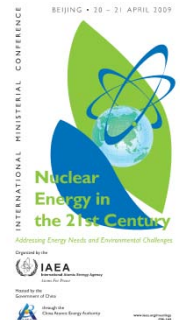
As soon as in **2007**, President Sarkozy stated that France was ready to help countries willing to develop nuclear energy



In **2008**, a dedicated agency, the **Agence France Nucléaire International (AFNI)**, was set up to coordinate the organization of such an assistance.

At the Ministerial Conference on “Nuclear Energy in the 21st Century”, held in Beijing (**April 20, 2009**), it was stated that :

- **IAEA has now been informed by 61 countries (only 13 in 2005) that they might be interested in launching nuclear power programs.**
- **Among these 61 countries, IAEA considers that 12 are actively considering nuclear energy**



France's position and propositions



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The International Conference on Access to Civil Nuclear Energy, held in Paris on March 2010 at the initiative of President Sarkozy, was the occasion to word our position and propositions:

- ✓ **Financing** : « the World Bank, the EBRD and the other development banks should make a firm commitment to finance [...] nuclear energy » and nuclear energy should be able to join the CDM market,
- ✓ **Transparency** : « There can be no development of civil nuclear energy without a commitment to transparency »,
- ✓ **Education & training** should be made a priority and an international network of centres of excellence on nuclear energy should be set up ; France would contribute through its International Nuclear Energy Institute, currently under development,
- ✓ **Safety** should be the n° 1 priority,
- ✓ **Compliance with international treaties and non-proliferation commitments** is an absolute necessity.

Promoting the highest standards of safety



The generation III : a mature concept, based on current reactors' feedback, with significant improvements in safety

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- **Drastically reduces** the probability of a severe accident,
- **Drastically limits** the potential consequences of such an accident, if ever it occurred anyway,
- **With built-in capacity to withstand external hazards (APC,...)**

France and Japan are committed on this issue...

... it is necessary now to work towards an effective international recognition of these standards...



The fuel cycle: a central stake for newcomers and the worldwide community...



Nuclear Fuel Assurances



GB II enrichment plant

Back-end management

Proliferation resistance

These different points have to be seriously considered **to avoid bottlenecks and blocking points for newcomers** on their path towards nuclear energy...

The **security of supply**, in particular, is a crucial stake for any potential newcomer and/or investor,

France and Japan could come to similar approaches on these questions.

France and Japan have assets...

(e.g. Fuel fabrication, enrichment plants, RRP and La Hague reprocessing plants)

... but also specificities ; in France the **Act of June 28, 2006** on the sustainable management of nuclear materials and waste.

Compliance with non proliferation commitments



Some of the potential newcomers have not (yet) signed the NPT and/or its additional protocol

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A crucial issue has then to be addressed :

- How far can a mature and responsible state dialogue with such countries ?
- How far can an assistance be provided to these countries ?

We believe that :

- **Totally banning that dialogue will leave the door open for states with possibly lower standards and commitments,**
- **Initiating such a dialogue will on the reverse allow us persuading these newcomers to meet international requirements.**