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**STATEMENT BY MR. DIDIER GONZALEZ,  
DEPUTY HEAD OF THE DELEGATION OF FRANCE TO THE OSCE  
AT THE OPENING SESSION OF THE SECOND REVIEW  
CONFERENCE ON THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE  
TREATY ON OPEN SKIES**

7 to 9 June 2010

Madam Chairperson,

Allow me to thank you for the very useful and dynamic contribution that you have provided for us thanks to the relevance of your words and the far-sightedness of the Treaty orientations that you have proposed to us as a means of contributing sustainably to the indivisible nature of our shared security. I should also like to thank the Ambassador for his presentation to us of the review of the last five years.

At the start of this Second Open Skies Review Conference, at a time when we have embarked on dialogue on the future of European security, which could be the subject of a future summit, France is pleased to take this occasion to pay tribute to the success of the Treaty implementation by all States Parties.

Since the First Review Conference in 2005, the States Parties have been able to assess the extent of the potential offered by the Treaty on Open Skies and its capacity for increasing confidence and transparency among the States Parties and their armies in the course of the missions. The full application of the provisions of the Treaty since 2006 has contributed to an intensive development of inter-State relations in Europe. In so doing, the Open Skies regime has gradually entered a phase of maturity. The conduct of the 500th observation flight two years ago was an important landmark in this regard.

We must now turn to the future and see to ensuring increasingly efficient and effective Treaty application in spite of the constraints intrinsic to each of the States Parties.

This Review Conference should help us to consider attentively the five years that have passed since the last conference so as to identify possible improvements for the future on the basis of the overall functioning of the Treaty.

In this context, we believe that European security would benefit considerably from increased openness towards the other OSCE participating States. This Conference should therefore serve to identify the obstacles to be overcome so as to enable interested OSCE participating States to accede to the Open Skies regime in the foreseeable future. As far as arms control is concerned, the Treaty on Open Skies is in fact an incontrovertible instrument

of transparency and confidence that we should continue to promote with other OSCE participating States.

Moreover, France is aware of the financial efforts required for the application of this Treaty. At the same time, we know that the use of crisis prevention tools such as the Treaty on Open Skies is much less costly than any type of conflict management. We must therefore strive to find ways that will enable us to make the Treaty in its entirety both efficient and effective.

In the shorter term, however, we should devote our efforts to intensifying its implementation by adapting it to modern technological developments. In this regard, France welcomes the willingness of States Parties to facilitate as soon as possible the use of digital technology, which has already become a reality through the adoption of the revision of Decision Number Fourteen and soon, we hope, through the adoption of the revision of Decision Number Seventeen and of Decision No. XYZ, which could perhaps be given a more becoming name. As an outcome of the joint consideration at the First Review Conference, this adaptation to modern technologies will enable the Open Skies regime to retain all of its strategic and political relevance. France attaches major importance to continuing efforts to attain this fundamental objective.

Madam Chairperson,

Allow me, in conclusion, to wish this Review Conference every success and to express a wish: it would be a shame if the specific proposals made during these three days were to remain a dead letter. In our humble opinion, the Open Skies Consultative Commission and the informal working groups should attentively study the most interesting of them so as to continue to further improve the exemplary image of this Treaty.