

**Dr. Frank-Walter Steinmeier, MdB
Bundesminister des Auswärtigen**

**beim 7. Außenministertreffen
der Unterzeichnerstaaten des
Vertrages über das umfassende Verbot von
Nuklearversuchen (CTBT)**

New York

26. September 2014

**Thank you Mr. Chairman,
Colleagues and friends,**

**I am proud to take the floor today as the
newest Member of the Friends of the
Comprehensive Test Ban Treaty.**

**Let me use this opportunity to reconfirm
Germany's full commitment to achieving an
entry into force and a fully developed
International Monitoring System as soon as
possible.**

**Progress in disarmament is already difficult in
peaceful times, and even more so in times of
crisis. But still, we must keep pushing even**

harder for progress now. Because I believe disarmament and arms control regimes do improve our security, not the contrary. In the case of the CTBT, this Treaty is also a contribution to humanity because it outlaws the practice of nuclear testing.

There is already a huge dedication to the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty and its verification regime – the practical cooperation within the International Monitoring System is improving, also with some of those States who have not yet ratified the treaty. The 163 completed ratifications can rightfully be called a tremendous success, but for the entry into

force we do need all Annex II states to ratify the CTBT.

Those still outstanding, should increase their efforts and take the necessary steps to pave the way for the entry into force of this Treaty.

Given the importance of the CTBT as a major pillar in the nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation regime it is increasingly important for us to understand and address the reasons given for holding out - or for hiding behind other hold-out states.

Therefore, I urge all Annex II States and all countries that haven't signed or ratified the CTBT to do so without further delay. Do not

wait for others to take the first step! The CTBT is beneficial for all of us. Germany will certainly remain a strong supporter of the CTBT and its implementation structures.

Thank you