



Permanent Mission
of the Federal Republic of Germany
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Speech by

**H.E. Ambassador Mr. Rolf Nickel
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**At the 8th Conference on Facilitating the
Entry into Force of the Comprehensive
Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty (CTBT)
in New York, 27 September**

Mr. Chairman,
Ladies and gentlemen,

First of all, let me express my gratitude to the Secretary-General for convening this meeting today.

Disarmament and non-proliferation constitute objectives as well as essential instruments to address the new global security challenges. Striving for a world free of nuclear weapons, is more than a moral duty; it is necessary if we are to safeguard our security.

The Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty (CTBT) is a major pillar in the nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation regime, as well as an important complement to the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty. Its entry into force would be a crucial step on the path towards a world free of nuclear weapons.

To date, over 2000 nuclear weapon tests have been carried out worldwide, the last one in February of this year in North Korea.

Germany is committed to ensuring that nuclear tests are banned worldwide. We have to join forces to make this objective a worldwide reality.

Existing nuclear test moratoria are important, but not sufficient. I encourage all countries that have not signed and ratified the CTBT to do so without further delay.

I am proud that Germany is the third-largest contributor to the budget of the CTBTO. Five German stations are part of the International Monitoring System.

As a constant supporter of the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty, Germany became a member of the Friends of the CTBT in May 2013.

The first Executive Secretary of the CTBTO, a German, is a member in the newly established Group of Eminent Persons.

This group, Secretary Zerbo, was created at your initiative. It has an important mission: to secure the ratification of the eight remaining Annex II states so that the CTBC can enter into force. Germany will continue to support all these efforts.

On the occasion of this 8th Article XIV Conference, I appeal to all states that every effort be made towards a rapid entry into force of the CTBT. It will make our world a safer place.

Thank you