

Check against delivery !

**Statement of Minister of State Kerstin Mueller
at the 3 rd Conference on Facilitating the Entry into Force of the
Comprehensive Nuclear Test-Ban Treaty (CTBT)**

**Mr President,
Ladies and gentlemen,**

**Seven years after being opened for signature,
the Comprehensive Nuclear Test-Ban Treaty (CTBT)
has still not entered into force.**

**The international community has not yet seized
the opportunity of halting the further development
of nuclear weapons and their proliferation
by making the Treaty universal.**

**The Federal Government wants to come
a major step closer to the vision
of a nuclear weapon free world.
Thus we fully support all efforts
to also encourage those states
to sign and/or ratify the Treaty,
which still have not yet done so.
This is the goal of this Conference
on Facilitating the Entry into Force of the Treaty.**

**The overdue entry into force of this important Treaty
is not an end in itself.
Rather, the CTBT is a central component
in a network of instruments
on nuclear non-proliferation and disarmament.**

It supplements the Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT) by curbing the further development of nuclear weapons, and thus making a decisive contribution to preventing vertical and horizontal proliferation.

We firmly believe that the entry into force of the CTBT is an important "practical step" towards the implementation of the nuclear disarmament obligation laid down in Article VI of the NPT. I recall that in its final declaration, the NPT Review Conference in May 2000 agreed upon this principle by consensus. As far as the Federal Government is concerned, this statement has not lost any of its validity - also with a view to the ongoing preparations for the 2005 Review Conference.

However, the aim of complete and global nuclear disarmament cannot be achieved by the entry into force of the CTBT alone. Rather the Disarmament Conference in Geneva, the only global disarmament forum with a mandate for negotiations, has to overcome its current deadlock and finally enter into negotiations on a Fissile Material Cut-off Treaty (FMCT).

The international community must continue its efforts to maintain international peace, security and stability. After all, we are talking about core tasks laid down in the Charter of the United Nations. We are therefore all called upon to actively pursue these shared goals.

Germany believes this includes above all:

- (1) to avoid new, mainly regional arms races,**
- (2) to maintain and where possible extend the network of multilateral instruments in the sphere of disarmament, arms control and non-proliferation,**
- (3) to do everything possible on the basis of international law to halt the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction and their delivery systems, also to non-state actors.**

Even after the end of the Cold War, weapons of mass destruction continue to pose an acute threat to humanity. We all know that the deployment of nuclear, biological or chemical weapons would claim loss of lives and cause injuries on a massive scale. It would make entire expanses of land infertile and uninhabitable for long periods of time.

Until well into the nineties,
the risk of such a deployment was ascribed only
to the strategic warfare of states.
I am afraid that the reality
we are living in today is different.
Today we also face the danger of non-state actors
gaining access to these deadly weapons
and using them to achieve terrorist goals.

Humanity must act
in the face of this escalating threat.
The Heads of State and Government of the European Union
are seeking a response to this major challenge of the 21st century:
they decided in March this year
to develop a common EU Strategy
against Proliferation of Weapons of Mass Destruction.
The aim is to achieve "a comprehensive,
coherent and effective policy
of the international community
to prevent the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction".
This strategy will be presented before the end of the year
and be adopted by the EU Heads of State and Government.

An essential point of this strategy
will be joint endeavours
by the member states of the European Union
to achieve universality of relevant multilateral instruments
in the sphere of disarmament,
arms control and non-proliferation.
The Federal Government will lend this goal its full support.
We attach central importance
to the entry into force of the CTBT.
And we know ourselves
in agreement with our EU-partners,
which all - without exception - have ratified the CTBT.

**On behalf of the Federal Government,
I extend a call today to all states to play their part
to make the Treaty universal,
if they have not yet signed and/or ratified the CTBT.
This call is directed particularly at those countries
whose ratification is a prerequisite
for the Treaty's entry into force.**

**India, Pakistan and North Korea remain called upon
to sign and ratify the Treaty promptly
as a way of strengthening regional and global trust
in their peaceful intentions.**

**We recognize that the United States
has done more than any other state
for the Treaty and the provisional Treaty Organization.
However, without the ratification by all nuclear-weapon states,
the Treaty will not become universally valid.
We therefore appeal particularly to the US and China
as nuclear-weapon states
to bring the international process of disarmament
and non-proliferation a decisive step forward
by ratifying the CTBT.**

**We appeal to all signatory states
to continue to support the development
of the CTBTO verification system.
Political confidence in the Treaty
can also be increased by proving
that the International Monitoring System is working.**

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**We call upon the signatory states
to support the work of the Provisional Technical Secretariat
headed by Executive Secretary Wolfgang Hoffmann
- to whose achievements I would like to pay express tribute today -
and to continue to provide the necessary resources.**

**Germany will continue to work with great commitment
to achieve these goals.**

Thank you.