

**Madam High Representative,**

**Distinguished Ministers,**

**Mr. Executive-Secretary,**

**Distinguished colleagues,**

**Excellencies,**

**Ladies and Gentlemen,**

**We all agree: The time is more than ripe for  
the *Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty*  
to enter into force.**

**Therefore, on the occasion of the 20<sup>th</sup> anni-  
versary of the opening for signature of the  
CTBT, I call with renewed emphasis on the  
remaining Annex 2 states to sign and/or ratify  
this treaty.**

**An effective CTBT constitutes an essential pillar of the global disarmament and non-proliferation architecture.**

**Against this backdrop, I would like to thank Ambassador Istrate as well as Executive-Secretary Zerbo for having worked tirelessly toward making the best possible use of the CTBT anniversary in order to**

- promote entry into force and**
- raise international awareness for the proven importance of the CTBT as an effective treaty with an effective organization.**

**These shared objectives are also what brought us together here today.**

Signing and ratifying the CTBT should be an obvious step for all countries – for several reasons. In addition to ensuring that no nuclear test on our globe goes undetected, the unique monitoring system produces tremendous collateral benefits for civilian purposes such as valuable data for research or Tsunami warnings. U.N. Secretary-General Ban Ki-Moon aptly observed: *“Even before entering into force, the CTBT is saving lives.”*

To sign and/or ratify the CTBT would send a strong signal to the international community and, without doubt, not only produce ample goodwill worldwide, but also help to build mutual trust. Unequivocal commitment to the CTBT serves as an important confidence-building measure. It can help defusing ten-

sions in regions such as South or East Asia and the Middle East. In times of crises and conflicts, it is of paramount importance to be able to count on regulatory frameworks such as the CTBT. Furthermore, regionally coordinated ratification could be seen as a confidence-building measure for the specific region.

But there is more: We are convinced that any country would benefit from engaging with the International Monitoring System early on. Becoming an active partner in this global network of scientists, data exchange and research is bound to have a positive impact on that country's research landscape.

We therefore invite you to jointly explore ways how to connect scientists and experts in CTBT-countries with their counterparts in non-signatory/ratifying

**countries. Thus we could create a forum for dialogue and the sharing of experience, thereby demonstrating the benefits of engagement with the IMS.**

**Germany is a proud member of the “friends of the CTBT”. And: Germany is the third largest contributor to the CTBTO budget. We are firmly convinced that an early entry into force of the CTBT would be a milestone on the path leading us toward a world without nuclear weapons – a world safer for all nations and all of humanity.**

**Let us further reinforce the de facto global moratorium against nuclear testing.**

**Let us therefore create the momentum to help the CTBT become legally binding at last.**

