

Speech by German Foreign Minister

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**at the 11th Conference to Promote the Entry Into Force of
the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty (CTBT)**

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Madam High Representative,
Distinguished colleagues,
Excellencies,
Ladies and Gentlemen,

I am very grateful for your presence here today – it proves that there is widespread consensus about the need for nuclear disarmament to be brought back to the top of the international agenda. The current trend towards a nuclear build-up, unbridled rhetoric and eroding arms control arrangements makes this indispensable. Against this background, I decided to lend my personal support to the CTBT. It is a great honor to be elected Co-President of this conference together with my Algerian colleague, H.E. Sabri Boukadoum. I wish to thank States Signatories for their trust as well as the previous Co-Presidents Belgium and Iraq for their excellent work.

So where do we stand on the CTBT? The progress made since the last conference in 2017 is encouraging. The CTBT now counts 168 ratifications and 184 signatures. It is widely endorsed by the international community. I commend Zimbabwe for recently completing ratification.

The CTBTO operates a network of monitoring stations in 89 countries – an excellent example of multilateralism in practice. This network reliably detects nuclear tests as proven in the context of DPRK. It also provides civilian benefits, including scientific research on climate change. Let us work to preserve this major achievement.

But we are here today because the Treaty is still not in force.

Eight of the 44 countries whose ratification is necessary have yet to ratify. Collectively and individually, these eight states prevent entry into force. I call on them to join the Treaty without any preconditions or delay.

Nuclear tests continue to pose a grave threat to international peace and security. I think we all agree: Stopping nuclear testing once and for all would constrain the proliferation and de-

velopment of new nuclear weapons. It would thus constitute a major step towards a world without nuclear weapons. It is our responsibility to move forward on this path – we owe this to our children and future generations.

Distinguished colleagues, Excellencies,

Today's meeting and the draft final declaration send a strong political signal: Bringing the CTBT into force is a challenge that requires international cooperation and commitment – “true multilateralism” if you will. Let us join forces to put an end to nuclear testing once and for all.

Thank you.