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Ladies and gentlemen,
dear guests,
dear friends,

It is a great pleasure to welcome you this evening to celebrate the anniversary of the founding day of the Bundeswehr.

I arrived in Kazakhstan only this summer. Since then, I have already experienced the warmth of your hospitality and the depth of the relationship between our two countries. Today's occasion is especially meaningful to me - not only as Germany's Ambassador, but also for deeply personal reasons.

The Bundeswehr has been part of my life since childhood. My father was an officer in the Bundeswehr and belonged to the first young men being recruited after the founding of the

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Bundeswehr. I grew up with a very personal understanding of what service means: responsibility, discipline, loyalty and a commitment to peace.

For me, the Bundeswehr was never an abstract institution. It was part of my family's everyday life. I saw the demands that military service places on individuals and families. I also saw the values that guide the Bundeswehr: respect for human dignity, responsibility before the law and loyalty to a democratic constitution. The Bundeswehr is the army of a democratic state, therefore we regard our soldiers as "citizens in uniform". From the beginning on much attention was paid to leadership development and civic education.

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I am particularly pleased to be here in Kazakhstan, where we are celebrating not only the history of the Bundeswehr, but also the close and steadily developing cooperation between the Bundeswehr and the Armed Forces of Kazakhstan.

For 35 years, this cooperation has grown continuously. It includes dialogue, exchanges, training, education and practical cooperation. These activities strengthen mutual understanding and contribute to trust between our countries.

The Bundeswehr also made a contribution during the establishment and development of Kazakhstan's armed forces. This was an important expression of Germany's willingness to share experience and support Kazakhstan as it built its own defense

structures as an independent state.

Today, I am very grateful for the many forms of cooperation that continue to bring our armed forces closer together. They are a visible sign of our broader partnership and of our shared interest in stability, security and peace.

Germany values Kazakhstan as an important partner in Central Asia. Our relationship is based on mutual respect, open dialogue and the conviction that security is a shared responsibility.

As a diplomat, I am committed to strengthening this partnership. As the daughter of a Bundeswehr officer, I feel a particular personal connection to the men and women who serve in uniform—and to the

international partnerships that make peace and security possible.

I am therefore especially pleased to celebrate this occasion together with you.

May the cooperation between Germany and Kazakhstan, and between our armed forces, continue to deepen and flourish in the years ahead.

Thank you very much.