



Permanent Mission of Germany
to the United Nations

**Women and peace and security
Security Council Meeting**

Statement by Ambassador Thomas Matussek

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Mr. President,

Germany aligns herself with the statement made by Sweden on behalf of the European Union. As a member of the “Group of Friends of Security Council Resolution 1325” we attach great importance to the issue of “women, peace and security”. Let me therefore add the following remarks:

As mentioned in the latest Secretary General’s report on the implementation of resolution 1325 the objectives of this landmark resolution have not fully been met. The conflicts in the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Somalia, and Burundi in which rape and sexual violence still persist brutally demonstrate the urgent need to further improve the situation for women. Thus, this debate with the focus on needs of women and girls in post-conflict situations for sustainable peace and security could not be more timely! Thank you for your initiative!

Mr. President,

Women and children need to be protected from violence! Every day, we bear witness to unspeakable atrocities. This is especially the case in post-conflict situations in which police protection does not exist and judicial systems lie in shatters. Recovery efforts have to keep this in mind! Institutions need to be rebuilt - but protection can’t wait until the systems are fully set up. Protection has to take place from the very first minute of peacebuilding – for the benefit of the victims but also for the benefit of the whole community since rape and sexual violence destroy the very fragments of societies. Thus, sustainable peace cannot be achieved without the protection of the most vulnerable - women and children.

Last week in this chamber, Hillary Clinton referred to an excellent example for addressing the issue: The UN Peacekeeping mission in Liberia with an “all women police unit” creates an environment in which women do not hesitate to seek protection. We need creative responses tailored to the specific cultural and historical background of the individual conflicts!

Mr. President,

Women are not only victims of conflicts but powerful agents for peace and security! Therefore, the empowerment of women to fulfill this potential is of utmost importance! The system of granting microcredits to women has proved successful within the context of development cooperation. Empowering women would also help in security sector reform as well as disarmament, demobilization and reintegration processes. Women need to be included in peace negotiations and in the decision making processes for rebuilding countries and societies after they have been torn apart by war. Only by including the gender perspective in these efforts can a thorough, sustainable, and all inclusive peace be achieved.

Mr. President,

What can Member States do?

Just to give you a few examples:

Germany has advocated to include gender adviser in all European Security and Defense Policy missions. The EUFOR mission in the Democratic Republic of the Congo had – for the first time – such an adviser among its personnel. During Germany’s presidency, gender advisers were part of all ESDP missions. Also, the deployment of female soldiers enhanced the success of operations. For example, female soldiers checking women and children at checkpoints proved to deescalate the situation on the ground.

In Afghanistan, Germany has founded many projects to improve the situation of women in the aftermath of the overthrow of the Taliban. Germany has built schools for girls, ensured legal advice and protection for women, trained women judges, prosecutors and teachers.

In Cambodia, Germany supports a project of the Ministry of Women’s and Veteran’s Affairs that focuses on capacity building and gender mainstreaming.

Finally, all German police and military personnel have to undergo gender training!

Mr. President,

What can the United Nations do?

Security Council Resolutions 1888 and 1889 that the Council adopted today are yet another milestone in the fight against sexual violence and the empowerment of women for the maintenance of peace and security. We now have a whole range of tools available in order to prevent sexual violence and to respond rapidly to situations in which violence occurs.

The new “composite gender entity” the General Assembly has decided to establish as part of the System Wide Coherence will help to coordinate these and all other instruments that already exist within the United Nations. I echo the Presidency of the European Union in calling upon the Secretary-General and his Deputy to quickly start working on the establishment of this entity.

Let me suggest and reiterate three more targets:

- The United Nations need to continue working together with women NGOs on the ground in post-conflict areas;
- The United Nations have to strive to include more women in peacekeeping missions at all levels - to improve its own performance but also to set an example for the countries concerned;
- The United Nations entities must expand their activities related to the delivery of basic services that women in post-conflict situations need, especially access to health care, education and justice systems.

Mr. President,

Next year is the 10th anniversary of resolution 1325 – let us try to reach these targets by that date so we will be able to proclaim some progress that will benefit and guide all people in the world that need our help and look at us for support!

Thank you Mr. President!