



Permanent Mission of Germany
to the United Nations

**Security Council Open Debate on
"Women, Peace and Security:
Sexual Violence in Situations of Armed Conflict"**

**Statement by H.E. Ambassador Dr. Martin Ney
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New York, 19 June 2008

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Madam President,

Germany welcomes this open thematic debate on "Women, Peace and Security: Sexual Violence in Situations of Armed Conflict". I would like to express Germany's appreciation to you, Madam President, and the United States for this important initiative. Complementing the Declaration made by Slovenia on behalf of the European Union, Germany would like to add the following remarks:

We are deeply shocked by recent and recurring reports indicating that brutal rapes are increasingly becoming commonplace in conflict and post-conflict situations. The pervasive and sometimes systematic use of sexual violence against women and girls, particularly rape or even gang-rape and other forms of sexual abuse, not only belongs to the most serious violations of human rights. Sexual violence can also constitute a threat to international peace and security, when used or commissioned in situations of armed conflict as a method of war in order to deliberately target civilians or other protected persons or as part of a widespread or systematic attack against civilian populations. We therefore have to recognise sexual violence as a security problem requiring a systematic security response, including through attention by this august body and the International Criminal Court. We have to increase all our efforts - on all levels - to find adequate responses and to end impunity for these crimes.

In this context, Germany highly welcomes the initiative "Stop rape now: UN Action against Sexual Violence in Conflict" launched in 2007, as well as the Secretary-General's campaign "Unite to end violence against women", which he launched during the recent session of the Commission on the Status of Women. We particularly welcome the personal commitment that Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon attaches to this campaign.

Madam President,

The adoption of Security Council Resolution 1325 in the year 2000 was a milestone in creating awareness for the urgent need to protect women and girls from sexual abuse in armed conflicts, but also in acknowledging the crucial role that women can and should have in all efforts to promote peace and security.

Germany reaffirms its commitment to the full and effective implementation of Resolution 1325. We just submitted a comprehensive and detailed report to the UN Secretariat on Germany's contributions to the individual demands of Resolution 1325. This report documents a variety of measures both at national and global level - ranging from efforts to increase representation of women in all decision-making mechanisms for the prevention, management

and resolution of conflict, to concrete projects aimed at ending violence against women. The German Federal Government, in 2007, also presented its second "Action Plan to Combat Violence against Women".

Madam President,

The promotion of gender equality and women's empowerment is an essential part of the UN mandate. A coherent and effective implementation of this mandate, including Security Council Resolution 1325, needs a coherent and effective UN gender architecture. Germany supports the strengthening of the UN's normative and operative work on gender equality and the empowerment of women. This week's debate in the General Assembly showed once again the broad commitment to a reform of the UN's Gender Architecture. We now need concrete steps forward in order to enable the UN to better deliver for women and girls all around the world.

Madam President,

We look forward to further discussion of "Women, Peace and Security" within the Security Council. The topic of gender equality and women's empowerment, and, more specifically, of sexual violence, should not only be part of an annual open debate, but should be continuously considered and mainstreamed in the daily work of this Council and in all discussions of conflict and post-conflict situations. Germany therefore welcomes that information on sexual violence will now be systematically included in the Council's country situation reports. We had also supported proposals towards a specific mechanism in this regard because we believe that effective prevention starts with systematic reporting and reliable data. We hope that the Council will return to this issue in its future discussions.

Thank you.