

Security Council Open Debate on Women, Peace and Security
28th of October, 2011, Security Council Chamber

Statement by H.E. Ambassador Berger, Representative of Germany

Thank you, Madame President, for having organised today's debate.

I also thank the Secretary General, Madame Bachelet, Mr. Kapambwe and Ms Ashraf Nemat for their insightful remarks.

Germany aligns itself with the statement to be made by the European Union.

As a member of the "Group of Friends of Security Council Resolution 1325" Germany has always attached great importance to all aspects of the issue "Women and Peace and Security" – in particular to turn, 11 years after the adoption of this ground breaking resolution, words into action.

Therefore, we applaud the timely decision of the Nobel Prize Committee to honor three courageous and inspirational women who are exemplary models of how women can make a difference.

Germany very much welcomes the Secretary General's comprehensive report and the analysis and recommendations it contains, including the strategic framework and the first set of indicators which he brought forward.

Madame President,

the PRST to be adopted today clearly recognizes once again the significant role of women in prevention, conflict resolution and post conflict rebuilding.

Including women in peace initiatives is not a benevolent act, we see it as a key requirement to any lasting, sustainable peace. Women's participation will strengthen the capacity to resolve conflict and build security and justice systems that protect the human rights of all.

However, we have still existing gaps between repeated commitments and the situation on the ground. Women remain severely under-represented in peace negotiations and they are often marginalized in efforts to build sustainable peace.

What can be done to close this gap?

First, in regard to the UN level, we commend UN Women for its work in leading the mainstreaming efforts to include, wherever possible, a gender perspective in UN activities and measuring progress made in implementing resolution 1325 against the indicators.

It is crucial to constantly strive for more women in leading positions, also within the UN, and to give women a voice during all stages of peace processes. There is a clear link between women's participation in the early stages of preventive diplomacy, peace-making or peace-building and their presence in implementation mechanisms.

Second, at the level of EU and NATO:

Both within the European Common Foreign and Security Policy and NATO, the implementation of 1325 in relation to conflict resolution has progressed. Forces are better informed on gender issues. And we are beginning to see the benefits of a new awareness and understanding where it matters - in the communities where soldiers are deployed. Female military medical staff serving in field hospitals lower the barriers for local women to seek treatment and female soldiers gain better access to local women.

Third, with regard to the national level:

Last year the German Government presented its third report to Parliament on its implementation of SR resolution 1325. It contains, inter alia, projects on gender training, including for UN peacekeepers, prevention of sexual violence, enabling women's participation in peace-processes as well as their unhindered access to justice. A special focus lies on the support for women's organizations and NGOs in promoting women's empowerment.

In addition, the German Government has set up action plans on “gender in development aid programmes” and on “civilian crisis prevention”. Germany implements the indicators adopted by the European Union in 2010.

Fourth and last, the Security Council could do more to systematically integrate women, peace and security issues in its daily work, including when mandating or renewing UN missions. Envoys and Special Representatives should address those issues, where relevant, in their briefings to the Council.

I would like to conclude, Madam President, by expressing Germany's support for the presidential statement adopted today.

Thank you.