

**Security Council Open Debate on Sexual Violence in Conflict, Resolution 1888**  
**Wednesday, 30 September, 2009**

*Statement by H.E. Mr. Ban Ki-Moon, Secretary General of the Security Council to the United Nations*

I am pleased to address the Security Council again on the subject of resolution 1820 (2008).

At the outset, Madam President, I would like to welcome you again to the United Nations. I would like also to commend your leadership and commitment on all the major goals and ideals of the United Nations, including this very important issue of women and peace and security.

Despite some progress in responding to sexual violence in armed conflicts, the deliberate targeting of civilians continues unabated, including on a widespread or systematic basis. Parties to armed conflict continue to use sexual violence with efficient brutality. The perpetrators generally operate with impunity.

States and other parties to conflict must uphold their international legal obligations. The international community must do more to prevent violence, protect individuals, punish perpetrators and provide redress to victims.

With its resolution 1888 (2009) today, the Security Council is sending an unequivocal message — a call to action. It is an ambitious platform for intensifying this struggle. It builds on resolution 1820 (2008), which itself set a important precedent by recognizing the links between sexual violence and sustainable peace and security. I am fully committed to ensuring that the provisions of both resolutions are implemented, in partnership with all relevant stakeholders. I will continue to ensure effective follow-up by the United Nations system.

The Security Council's continued engagement will be crucial. My recent report to the Council (S/2009/362) offered a series of mutually reinforcing recommendations for action.

Sexual violence — in armed conflict or, indeed, at any time — should have no place and find no haven in the world. We must all do our part to fight and end discrimination against women and girls. The new gender entity recently agreed by the General Assembly should strengthen our work for women's empowerment; I have asked the Deputy Secretary-General to lead efforts to put that entity in place.

I will also continue to do everything in my power to advance gender equality among United Nations staff, including in my senior appointments.

Women's empowerment must be at the heart of our global work for peace and development.