

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

*Statement by H.E Mr. Rugunda, Representative of Uganda to the United Nations*

I welcome the fact that you are presiding over this Council meeting in person, Madam President. It is a demonstration of your commitment to the total elimination of sexual violence, which has been so prevalent, especially in a number of African countries. Uganda voted in favour of resolution 1888 (2009) because of our continued commitment to the welfare of women, and especially of girls, who tend to be the primary casualties in conflict situations.

Sexual violence is a global problem. Therefore, every effort must be made to ensure that the culprits are held accountable for their despicable actions. Once again, that is a reminder that sexual violence in conflict-related situations can be prevented if peace, stability and the rule of law are restored in the affected countries.

Uganda welcomes the resolution's recognition of the needs of national justice systems that have been weakened by conflicts and the understanding that, if the international community does not assist those institutions to rebuild their capacity, it is useless to call for an end to impunity or for the prosecution of war criminals or perpetrators of sexual violence.

Let me take this opportunity to thank Ambassador Rice and the United States Mission for spearheading the adoption of this resolution.