



Permanent Mission of Germany
to the United Nations

Statement

by

**Ambassador Dr. Wolfgang Trautwein
Deputy Permanent Representative of Germany
to the United Nations**

on

**an Open Debate in the Security Council Chamber with the agenda item
"Women and Peace and Security"**

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Mr. President,

Germany associates herself to the statement by the presidency of the European Union and would like to add the following remarks:

Justice, classically "iustitia", is represented as a female goddess. In armed conflicts, however, crimes committed against women are the ones most likely to go unpunished. This is why we cannot overestimate the historic significance of the explicit inclusion of gender-related crimes and crimes of sexual violence in the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court.

Mr. President,

Germany, as a member of the group of friends of resolution 1325 (2000), welcomes the fact that UN peace missions are now regularly mandated with a reference to SCR 1325. Questions related to SCR 1325 have increasingly been discussed both in open and in closed meetings of the Security Council. During our term on the Security Council 2003/2004 we actively worked towards this goal. Whether in the context of approving peace-keeping mandates or of reviewing the impact of sanctions, gender implications must continue to be an integral part of the analysis and decisions of the Council. In this context we would encourage, that the SC includes a strong gender perspective in the upcoming mandate for the UN-mission to the Great Lakes.

Mr. President,

Five years after the adoption of SC-Res. 1325 we still struggle with the problem of sexual exploitation, abuse and the solicitation of prostitutes in peacekeeping operations. We strongly welcome DPKOs "zero tolerance policy" to fight these shameful acts. Germany actively supports the work of the Ambassador of Jordan and fully shares his concern that the issue of sexual exploitation must not disappear from our agenda and must be vigorously persecuted.

Germany - among like-minded countries - is actively contributing to the "Steering Committee" for the DPKO Workshop on "Policy Dialogue to Review Best Practices for Enhancing Gender Balance among military personnel in UN Peacekeeping Operations", which is planned for early 2006. Germany has started to integrate women into the German Armed Forces in 2001 and is strongly committed to maximize the number of female soldiers in the field.

Mr. President,

Germany welcomes the Outcome Document of the 2005 World Summit and the strong commitment to the full and effective implementation of Security Council Resolution 1325 and to the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action expressed in this important document. It underlined the vital link that exists between gender equality and peace and security in the world. We consider the decision to establish a Peacebuilding Commission as one of the greatest achievements of the summit. It is of vital importance that a gender perspective is integrated in the Peacebuilding Commission and that this perspective should be reflected in the mandate of the Commission as well as in its structure. The Outcome Document stresses the importance of inclusion of civil society in country-specific meetings. Germany believes that the inclusion of women's organisations will be of particular importance.

Mr. President,

Women are too often only seen as victims of armed conflicts. They are, indeed, key to end conflicts and to stabilize war-torn countries. Effective implementation of gender equality and increased involvement of women in all aspects of society can contribute significantly to decreasing violence and preventing conflicts. The CEDAW-Convention, the Beijing Declaration, the Beijing Platform for Action and Security Council Resolution 1325 on Women, Peace and Security are clearly complementary and human rights instruments of utmost importance. Women are indispensable agents in the process of building democratic structures and strengthening civil society. Five years after the adoption of SC-Res. 1325 women remain a largely untapped human resource in peacebuilding. Let us all work together to complete this important task.