



# UGANDA

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**STATEMENT BY**

**THE DEPUTY PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF UGANDA,  
AMBASSADOR PATRICK MUGOYA,**

**SECURITY COUNCIL DEBATE  
ON WOMEN, PEACE AND SECURITY**

New York, August 06, 2009

**Mr. President,**

I wish to thank the delegation of the United Kingdom for organizing this debate on this very important subject.

I wish to welcome the Secretary-General and to thank him for the comprehensive report he has presented on the implementation of 1820.

From the outset, let me reiterate that Uganda deplores and condemns sexual violence and our support for the various efforts by the United Nations and other stakeholders, to eradicate the use of sexual violence, as an instrument of war. Uganda has continued to advocate at a regional and international level for respect for, and protection of women in armed conflict, who would otherwise be victims of sexual violence.

**Mr. President,**

It is clear from the report of the Secretary-General that incidences of widespread sexual violence tend to escalate in situations where the state institutions have broken down. It is also clear that this is a global problem and that both state and non-state actors have been responsible for some of the very serious abuses that have taken place. Therefore, sexual violence is a symptom of a much bigger problem about which Uganda is greatly concerned.

There should be no impunity for the perpetrators of sexual violence. All efforts must be made to ensure that the culprits are held accountable for their despicable actions. Only then might the victims begin to heal and develop a measure of confidence that they have not been abandoned altogether. There remains an urgent need to sensitize all parties to armed conflict to the fact that certain practices are unacceptable under any circumstances.

**Mr. President,**

Effective implementation of 1820 also requires, at the very minimum, an atmosphere of peace, security and stability is in place. The most effective way to avoid sexual violence which occurs during armed conflict would be to ensure peace and rule of law are restored in the affected countries.

In order to address the situation more realistically and conclusively, institutions of the state have to be strengthened. Once state institutions like police, prisons, good governance, and the army are well-established, law enforcement could then be enhanced and severe penalties for perpetrators would become an actual deterrent. We have heard how in some instances, some of the perpetrators of sexual violence still openly live among their victims with impunity.

There is need for possible solutions to drawn-out conflicts to be addressed in a holistic way. For instance, integrating the various forces of an armed conflict requires more than just a simple change in uniform; it requires a change in mindsets, counseling, training and capacity building.

The integration of armed groups should be well structured. There should also be strict vetting of recruits into the armed forces, so that people who are high-risk to become sexual predators are excluded. The high ranking officers implicated in sexual violence should be removed from the ranks of the armed personnel as an example to others and to send a clear message of zero tolerance to sexual violence.

**Mr. President,**

It is incumbent upon the Council to ensure that resolutions to establish or renew mandates, or to impose enforcement measures under chapter VII, contain provisions, as appropriate, on the prevention of, and response to sexual violence, with corresponding reporting requirements to the Council.

The UN, regional organizations, and the civil society need to work together to train good mediators, including female mediators, in adequate numbers, and mobilize sufficient resources to carry out these activities.

Uganda supports the creation of an effective mechanism that will galvanize the various efforts to find a lasting solution to this problem. In this regard, my delegation welcomes the establishment of UN Action. Its existence is a first step towards improvement of coordination of existing activities and exchange of crucial information between the UN Headquarters and the country-level offices.

We also welcome the commitment of the Secretary-General to submit an annual report on implementation of resolution 1820.

I thank you.