



**PERMANENT MISSION  
OF THE PRINCIPALITY OF LIECHTENSTEIN  
TO THE UNITED NATIONS  
NEW YORK**

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NEW YORK, 17 APRIL 2013  
SECURITY COUNCIL – OPEN DEBATE  
**WOMEN, PEACE AND SECURITY**  
**STATEMENT BY GEORG SPARBER, CHARGÉ D’AFFAIRES A.I**

Mr. President,

We welcome the second report of the Secretary-General on conflict-related sexual violence, which updates us on the widespread use of sexual violence as a method of warfare in various situations. Let me also commend the Special Representative of the Secretary-General on sexual violence in conflict, Ms. Zainab Bangura, and her office, for their great dedication in operationalizing and implementing important mandates deriving from resolutions 1820, 1888 and 1960. My delegation aligns itself with the statement delivered by Canada on behalf of the Group of Friends of Women Peace and Security, in particular with the call for increased accountability for acts of conflict-related sexual violence. This is best done by enhancing support for the Office of the SRSG in establishing the monitoring, analysis and reporting arrangements on conflict-related sexual violence mandated in resolution 1960. We also support the SG’s recommendation to put in place an appropriate mechanism or procedure of the Security Council to systematically monitor commitments by parties listed in the annex of its report.

Mr. President,

There is a clear and obvious link between the proliferation of small arms and light weapons and gender-based violence in conflict and post-conflict situations. There is ample evidence that small arms facilitate a vast spectrum of human rights violations, including rape and other forms of sexual violence. Liechtenstein therefore welcomes the fact that the Arms Trade Treaty includes the risk of gender-based violence and violence against women and children as one of the criteria that exporting States need to consider before authorizing an arms export. We are particularly pleased that this risk assessment not only covers small arms and light weapons, but also ammunitions, munitions, parts and components.

Mr. President,

We agree with the Secretary-General's statement that States are primarily responsible for holding individuals to account for sexual and gender-based violence. When national jurisdictions are unwilling or unable to fulfill this responsibility, however, the International Criminal Court in particular has a complementary role to play. Bringing to justice the perpetrators of sexual violence is an important step for victims seeking to move on with their lives. We are therefore pleased that the Prosecutor of the International Criminal Court, Ms. Fatou Bensouda, has made the fight against sexual violence a focus of her work. The fact that crimes of sexual violence play a role in nearly every case under investigation and prosecution by the Court speaks both to the startling prevalence of sexual violence in armed conflicts today, as to the emphasis placed by the ICC on holding perpetrators of these crimes accountable. The voluntary surrender to the ICC by Bosco Ntanganda, whose name has been associated with sexual and gender-based crimes in the Democratic Republic of the Congo for many years, is an important message for victims: in the end, justice will be done.

Delivering justice for victims of sexual violence also includes reparative justice. Liechtenstein is a proud donor to the ICC's Trust Fund for Victims, which adopts a gender perspective across all its activities and conducts programmes specifically aimed to assist victims of sexual and gender-based violence. Having been ordered to conduct reparations for the victims of Thomas Lubanga

Diylo, taking into account also the sexual violence they have suffered, the Trust Fund will now for the first time implement the promise of reparative justice contained in the Rome Statute.

Mr. President,

My delegation is a longstanding supporter of a consistent mainstreaming of the Council's thematic agenda into its country-specific work. In partnership with Switzerland we have supported the publication of a handbook on the Women, Peace and Security agenda by PeaceWomen, which has just been released in its second edition. To increase its usability we made the handbook available as a mobile application. The handbook makes the complex WPS agenda accessible by breaking it down into specific topics. Additionally, an overview of the Council's most relevant previously-agreed language, aims to ensure that the Council integrates its own decisions on WPS into its country-specific work. It is thus a practical tool for the drafters of Council resolutions. We hope that Council members will continue making good use of it.

I thank you.