



Statement by the Special Representative of the Secretary-General on

Sexual Violence in Conflict Margot Wallström

***NEW SECURITY COUNCIL RESOLUTION IMPORTANT TOOL IN THE CONTINUED
FIGHT AGAINST SEXUAL VIOLENCE***

(8 June 2011)

I welcome the new UN Security Council Resolution on HIV (SCR 1983), unanimously adopted yesterday in New York. This is an important tool as it enhances broader international efforts in our continued fight against conflict-related sexual violence and the devastating impact it can have on the health and stability of communities.

The resolution addresses the links between HIV and armed conflict, not only in terms of how it affects populations, but also UN peacekeepers with which they interact. It recognizes that conditions of violence and instability in conflict and post-conflict situations can accelerate the spread of HIV. The resolution also requests the UN Secretary-General to consider HIV-related needs of affected individuals, including women and girls, in his activities pertinent to the prevention and resolution of conflict, the maintenance of international peace and security, the prevention and response to sexual violence in conflict, and post-conflict peacebuilding.

I want to congratulate Gabon as current President of the Security Council and all members of the Security Council for their continuing commitment to prevent the spread of HIV and the related scourge of sexual violence. I would also like to thank the Executive Director of UNAIDS and the Secretary-General for their leadership on this issue.

We continue to monitor all incidents of alleged sexual violence in conflict, wherever they occur.

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