



Permanent Mission  
of the Federal Republic of Germany  
to the United Nations  
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## **Statement**

**by**

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**Federal Republic of Germany**

**On the occasion of the 56<sup>th</sup> session  
of the Commission on the Status of Women**

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*(check against delivery)*



Madam Chair,

Germany aligns itself with the statement delivered by the EU and thanks for the intensive preparation of this year's CSW.

The challenge that equality policy faces today is the challenge of difference and solidarity, differences not only in a global context but also between different generations. The life course perspective is fundamental for the success of gender politics as well as for the European Employment Strategy.

The central characteristic of the life course perspective is that it does not concentrate solely on short-term effects. Instead, it examines the cumulative and gender hierarchical effects of decisions in various phases of life on the future course of life of women and men.

Longterm effects of decisions are well known in rural areas. There are some disadvantages for women that only disappear very slowly.

Factors which were stressed by other countries before, factors which discriminate against women in rural areas also apply for Germany:

- limited employment opportunities,
- disproportionately high level of employment in not decent work,
- clear gender differences in pay,
- inadequate infrastructure especially in the areas of care and welfare.

As a result, in Germany's rural areas, there is regularly a greater disparity of the employment and training market in relation to gender – with all its consequences. It becomes clear that the framework parameters for women in rural areas have a very decisive influence on the decisions

made by women during the course of their lives and that their "choice" can in turn have a disadvantageous effect on their later life stations.

In order clearly to identify the challenges facing women in rural areas and to counter these, the German Government is working at national level together with NGOs, for example, with the German Association of Rural Women. The aim of the collaboration is to find out more about the causes of inequalities in rural areas, to train women as disseminators for matters relating to equal rights and to integrate them more in the institutions and organizations of the regional structures. A series of further projects aims to promote the economic independence of women, partly through creating opportunities for men to play a greater role in care and welfare work.

However, we must also succeed to a much greater extent in strengthening the participation rights of women and girls throughout the world. It has to be ensured that women and men have the same rights concerning inheritance and family laws. The aim of all political efforts must therefore be that women have the same opportunities as men to access land, loans, technologies, advisory services and training.

For these reasons, the German Government is involved in a great number of projects worldwide supporting the sustained advancement and protection of women in rural areas.

In the framework of the UN Committee on World Food Security (CFS), the German Federal Government supports the rapid adoption of the "Voluntary Guidelines on Responsible Governance of Tenure of Land, Fisheries and Forests in the Context of National Food Security"), which will provide suitable directives for the secure and fair access to natural resources to the benefit of rural women and girls. The Voluntary Guidelines are a part of the government's action plan on human rights on the implementation of the right to food.

With the 10-point programme on rural development and food security, the German Government is committed to supporting gender equality as an approach to overcoming hunger and poverty. To support the positive effect of gender equality on agricultural productivity, the German Government considers the gender dimension in all its development policy measures.



In order to create an awareness of the subject of equality and to mobilize the commitment to greater fairness between women and men coming in touch with matters concerning equal rights at an early time in life is very essential. The Emerging Issue at this year's CSW makes it easy to speak in depth about different generations in gender politics, to speak about generation responsive gender strategies.

Education can make a crucial contribution to questioning clichéd, discriminating roles and paradigms and breaking down stereotypes. But the different target groups must also be approached appropriately. This is what the German Government is trying to do, for example, in the Council for Boys' Policy, in which young males, as experts speaking on their behalf, explore the diversity of life plans for boys, the changing concept of masculinity and possible ways in which politics can meet the challenges.

In its development policy, the German Government emphasizes the human rights education of boys and girls as a strategy in order to strengthen them as rights holders and to enable them to protect themselves against violations of those rights. Germany is also committed to the abolition of harmful practices globally which often prevent young women from accessing higher education in rural areas in particular.

The Federal Republic of Germany will also continue, as in the past, to work with its partners towards the goal of gender equality and the strengthening of women. We hope that we will receive plenty of impulses in the next week, including ideas for our national equality policy.

