

**Intervention by Ambassador Gerhard Küntzle  
on behalf of the Federal Republic of Germany**

Dear Ms Waly Executive Director of UNOCD,

Dear Minister Muylle,

Excellencies,

Ladies and Gentlemen!

Commemorating Beijing+25 and addressing gender equality and the empowerment of women and girls here in Vienna is a pertinent and laudable undertaking. UNODC in particular devotes a large part of its normative and practical work to help protect women from becoming victims of human trafficking, migrant smuggling, and other criminal activities.

Germany is strongly committed to the promotion, protection and fulfillment of human rights. We believe that gender equality, women's empowerment and the promotion of the rights of all women and girls are a universal priority and should therefore be integral to all our efforts. We are convinced that the implementation of the Beijing Platform for Action is a crucial step to achieve gender equality.

Germany is fighting against human trafficking and migrant smuggling and for the protection of victims of such human rights violations not only in the Human Rights Council. We are strongly convinced that UNODC, under the able guidance of its Executive Director, Ms Waly, can also make an important contribution.

That is why Germany has directly contributed 70.000 Euro to UNODC's project on "Gender Dimensions of Aggravated Migrant Smuggling" in order to foster evidence based responses to this issue. Germany thereby helps to put into practice UN Security Council resolution 1325.

Here in Vienna and elsewhere we should use the momentum of the 25th anniversary of the Beijing Platform for Action to step up our efforts in achieving gender equality. In this context we welcome France's and Mexico's plans for the "Generation Equality Forum", and we look forward to support the Forum by taking over the lead for the Action Coalition on "Economic Justice and Rights" together with Mexico, South Africa, Spain and Sweden.

Thank you.