



Permanent Mission  
of the Federal Republic of Germany  
to the United Nations  
New York

## Statement

by  
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On the occasion of the 55<sup>th</sup> session  
of the Commission on the Status of Women

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*(check against delivery)*

Mr Chairman,

Germany aligns itself with the statement delivered by Hungary on behalf of the European Union.

The guiding principle of German gender equality policy is the **lifelong perspective** already referred to by the representative of the European Union.

This perspective considers the cumulative effects of decisions on the course of people's lives. It is an important starting point for **education policy and strategies**.

Education is a central element of a life cycle perspective on gender equality for employment and social participation. Applying the principle of gender equality in the life cycle perspective means that girls as well as boys, women as well as men, can choose and benefit from all **levels of education to the same degree**.

All levels of education should therefore be interconnected, **that there is not just one path that can be followed**. There must be **opportunities to enter higher levels of education at different points in a career's biography**.

This complies with "lifelong learning". This concept aims at meeting the consequences of the demographic change (such as **lack of specialists**) and changes in society for example **adjusted requirements for qualifications**. It also includes processes of formal and informal learning.

The most important transitions in the education sector are transfers from different school systems as well as transfer from **school to tertiary institutions**.

But there are also important transitions later in life such as re-**entering the labour market after a time gap**.

It is in these phases of transition where different challenges and risks can be observed for women and girls, men and boys.

**Girls in Germany** today in general obtain higher and better **education** than boys but have less chances to use these **opportunities** on the labour market.

One reason for this is the **gender inequality in career and study choices** for women". Therefore we are trying to encourage young women and men to broaden their spectrum in career and study choices. I will give you some examples:

- A **national pact** has been established in broad cooperation of many partners universities and institutes, all stakeholders in the economic and academic partners, with the aim to use the potential of **women in applied natural science and technology**.
- The **"female professors programme"** gives universities which are willing to develop a positive, externally evaluated gender equality plan the opportunity to get additional funding for **researchers**.

- **Mentoring-Programmes** help to support women in career choices in male dominated sectors in employment.
- The “**Girl’s Day**” is an annual orientation day for female students who offers them opportunities to learn more about the engineering, IT, IT profession and natural sciences sector.
- The project “**Up: Work for Boys**” and the new nationwide “**Boys’ Clubs**” try to attract boys and young men to the educational, social and healthcare sector.

A key indicator for the persistent gender inequality in working life is the “pay gap”. The Federal Government offers support to employers in introducing **Logib D**. Logib D is a software instrument which helps employers to investigate gender-related gaps in their wages and to develop ideas on how to overcome these differences. If you are interested in this, please be invited to a side event on 25 February at lunchtime in the German mission which is jointly organized by Austria, Switzerland and Germany.

Concerning Development Policy, the Federal Government uses a rights based approach – the right to education, work and equality and the empowerment of women.

Moreover, I would like to refer to the **UN Women** **CSW**. The CSW will be the normative governing body of UN Women and contribute substantially to the success, the efficiency and the creativity of UN Women activities. We look forward to seeing the CSW working closely with the staff of UN Women and with the UN Women Executive Board and helping the CSW achieve this aim.

Finally, Germany is committed to support the implementation of **Resolution 1325** on Women, Peace and Security, especially by using the **Initiative** recently adopted by the Security Council.

Thank you Mr **Chairman**.