



PERMANENT MISSION OF THE BRITISH AMBASSY TO THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA



Mr. Chairperson,

Investing in gender equality means investing in progress. The empowerment of women is a precondition for development. This is also reflected in Millennium Development Goal (MDG) No. 3. Nevertheless, the implementation of this goal is still a long way off.

Mr. Chairperson

We are deeply concerned about the shocking increase of sexual violence in conflicts around the world, such as in the Democratic Republic of the Congo. Rape and other forms of sexual violence devastate the lives of many thousands of women

groups routinely enjoy impunity. In many cases, sexual violence is not subject

Mr. Chairman,

While accountability is of paramount importance, the rights and needs of the victims of crimes must not be ignored. By providing protection and support to the victims, it must be ensured that they can testify freely and without fear of retaliation; the victims' trust fund of the ICC helps victims of atrocities move forward with their lives and restore their dignity by granting compensation or other forms of

the interests of victims.

We hope that the overall important role of the ICC in ending impunity will be

