



PERMANENT MISSION OF GREECE
TO THE UNITED NATIONS



**Security Council meeting on
the situation concerning the Democratic Republic of the Congo**

26 January 2025

Greece's Statement delivered
by HE Ambassador Evangelos Sekeris,
Permanent Representative of Greece to the United Nations, New York

Thank you Mr. President,

We thank U/SG Lacroix, SRSG Ms Keita, and A/SG Ms. Msuya for briefing us on this urgent meeting today. I would also like to welcome the participation of the honorable Foreign Minister of the Democratic Republic of the Congo in our meeting.

Greece commends and would like to thank SRSG Keita and MONUSCO for their continued efforts in these extremely difficult circumstances amidst the escalating crisis in the region. We follow developments closely also through our Embassy in Kinshasa, since we have also Greek citizens residing in Goma.

Allow me to emphasize four key points:

- First, we strongly condemn the recent flagrant violation of the ceasefire and the subsequent M23's further advance in North Kivu. M23 must reverse their territorial expansion immediately and halt their

encirclement of the town of Goma. Threats by M23 of seizing Goma are completely unacceptable.

Moreover, as the Secretary General stressed also in his today's statement the presence of Rwandan troops on Congolese soil and their support to the M23 are very concerning. We call on Rwanda to cease its support to the M23 and to withdraw its forces now and we reiterate that the sovereignty, unity and territorial integrity of the DRC must be fully respected.

- Second, in the next stage, peace cannot be attained without the withdrawal of Rwandan forces and the neutralization of the FDLR by the DRC. It is more imperative than ever that both DRC and particularly Rwanda commit to the ceasefire, re-engage sincerely in the political dialogue and implement all decisions and commitments agreed under the Luanda process.

We commend Angola's President Lourenço for his continuous efforts for peace and we believe that he deserves the Council's support. As a point of principle, my country Greece believes and supports that African led solutions are needed to address African issues.

- Third, the Council ought to focus on the humanitarian conditions, especially in North Kivu, that remain very dire. All parties must respect international humanitarian law and ensure unrestricted humanitarian access.

- Fourth, we express our deepest condolences to the families of the peacekeepers killed and to troop contributing countries, South Africa, Malawi and Uruguay. We hope for a speedy recovery of the peacekeepers injured. We emphasize that attacks against peacekeepers may constitute potential war crimes and that attacks against MONUSCO peacekeepers form also a basis for sanctions designations.

Finally, MONUSCO must be granted full access and freedom of movement to effectively fulfill its mandate and address urgent needs. The protection of civilians and humanitarian personnel must remain an absolute priority.

I thank you.