



PERMANENT MISSION OF GREECE  
TO THE UNITED NATIONS



**Arria Formula Meeting on  
“Violations of international humanitarian law  
against Ukrainian prisoners of war and civilian detainees”  
13 January 2025**

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

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Thank you Madame Chair,

I would like to congratulate the Permanent Mission of the United States and the other fifteen Member States co-sponsoring for convening this very important meeting and also thank our briefers for the very interesting presentations.

Greece shares the increasing concern of the organizers and other Member States on the serious threat posed to international peace and security by the misuse of commercial spyware, including to the safety and security of both government and UN personnel, as well as information systems.

The alleged or proven misuse of commercial spyware has already led to serious diplomatic incidents, including escalation of belligerent rhetoric.

At the same time, we can not overlook its proven use in ways that constitute grave violations of human rights.

In this vein, we support that the Member States should engage into serious dialogue in order to identify ways to regulate and effectively govern the proliferation and use of commercial spyware, so as to contribute and not undermine international peace and security.

Greece has engaged and watched with great interest the relevant international initiatives so far. First and foremost, recently, my country actively participated to the Pall Mall Process, initiated by the governments of the United Kingdom and France, and signed the relevant Declaration and it is ready to continue working on its implementation.

Moreover, Greece considers that the “Joint Statement on Efforts to Counter the Proliferation and Misuse of Commercial Spyware”, announced on March 2023, at the second Summit for Democracy, in Washington D.C., constitutes another important international initiative for countering the misuse of commercial spyware.

Madame Chair,

Let me also address the second question of the concept note, on additional steps that Member States can take to discourage investment in and the export of commercial spyware products.

Firstly, Member States can work to establish national legislation, guidelines and procedure that will effectively dissuade the production of commercial spyware products that are detrimental to international peace and security and to the protection of human rights, including those of journalists and media workers.

Greece has already undertaken robust steps in this regard, recently adopting one of the strictest relevant national legislation of protection on a global level.

Secondly, the Member States should prevent the export of software, technology, and equipment to end-users who are likely to use them for malicious cyber activity, including unauthorized intrusion into information systems, in accordance with respective existing legal and export control regimes.

States must establish strong safeguards and oversight regarding the use of such technologies for legitimate purposes. Furthermore, States must ensure that such usage does not impact human rights and fundamental freedoms, or take place in a manner inconsistent with applicable international law.

Madame Chair,

Concerning the last question of the concept note, on possible steps that Member States can take to ensure appropriate safeguards are implemented to mitigate potential risks associated with the use of commercial spyware in conflict, let me add two points.

Firstly, we encourage the inclusion of the discussion on commercial spyware into the relevant disarmament fora, at the UN or other level, in order to promote further understandings on the potential uses of commercial spyware in armed conflicts.

Secondly, we believe that the Security Council should take stock of the outcomes of the aforementioned procedures and examine the regular consideration of the issue of the misuse of commercial spyware, as a threat to international peace and security.

I thank you.