



PERMANENT MISSION OF GREECE  
TO THE UNITED NATIONS



## **Security Council High-Level Open Debate Advancing Adaptability in UN Peace Operations – Responding to new Realities**

**21 March 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 Mister President, your Excellency,

I would like to congratulate Denmark for organizing this very important High-Level Open Debate. I welcome the Secretary General of the UN and I thank him for his briefing to the Council. I also thank Ms. Russo of IPI for her presentation.

Mr. President,

As we are preparing to celebrate the 80<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the United Nations, we cannot think a UN mechanism more effective, universally acceptable and indispensable for the maintenance of international peace and security, than the UN peace operations.

From Cyprus to the Middle East and Africa, and from Haiti and Colombia till Afghanistan, UN Peacekeeping operations and Special Political Missions have contributed to building an environment conducive for political dialogue and the peaceful settlement of disputes. It is indeed 'effective multilateralism in action' as the Secretary General eloquently mentioned in his New Agenda for Peace.

Greece, my country, expresses its sincere gratitude to the men and women peacekeepers who are committed into serving under the most challenging circumstances and honours the memory of all those who have lost their lives in the line of duty. At the same time, we condemn in the strongest possible terms all attacks and hostile acts against peacekeepers, which are directed against the UN system itself.

As a troop-contributing country and an EU member State, Greece strongly supports EU civilian and military missions and operations, which are directly implementing UN Security Council mandates, such as Operation IRINI in the Mediterranean Sea and Operation EUFOR ALTHEA in Bosnia and Herzegovina, as well as those operating in line with Security Council resolutions, such as Operation ASPIDES in the region of the Red Sea and Operation ATALANTA in the Horn of Africa. In particular, we note the

growing importance of the maritime dimension in UN peacekeeping operations and of supporting capabilities of concerned States to ensure security of the maritime domain within the framework of such operations.

Mr. President,

Last September, we adopted the Pact for the Future, with which we committed to adapt peace operations to better respond to existing challenges and new realities. We now look forward to the review of the future of all forms of UN peace operations, as mandated by the Pact, which should focus mainly in the following three priority areas:

Firstly, we echo all those asking for increased efficiency of the peace operations. The pursuit for efficiency should be multilevel, starting from a better coordination between the Secretariat components, between the Headquarters and the missions, and between the UN system and the Member States, especially the troop- and police-contributing countries.

Lessons learned in Mali, the Democratic Republic of the Congo and elsewhere, demonstrate the need to take into account the priorities and responsibilities of host countries, while planning a peace operation mandate.

Secondly, peace operations can only succeed, when political solutions are actively pursued and they have predictable, adequate and sustained financing.

Therefore, the Council should ensure that the primacy of politics remains a central element of peace operations and also reflect on adaptable and effective mission models while devising transition and exit strategies, where appropriate.

In pursue of these objectives the Council should benefit from the invaluable experience of the special Secretariat departments, such as the five components of the Office of Rule of Law and Security Institutions (OROLSI).

Moreover, Greece looks forward to the results of the ongoing 2025 peacebuilding architecture review hoping that it will add value in securing adequate, predictable, and sustainable funding.

Thirdly, Greece reaffirms the importance of enhanced collaboration between the United Nations and regional and subregional organizations, in particular the African Union, including their peace support operations and peace enforcement authorized by the Security Council to maintain or restore international peace and security.

My country also supports the Secretary General's call for a new generation of peace enforcement missions and counter-terrorism operations, led by African partners with a Security Council mandate under Chapters VII and VIII of the Charter of the United Nations, with guaranteed funding through assessed contributions.

Mr. President,

Regarding some cross-cutting issues, I cannot stress more the need that all peace operations must prioritize the promotion of the Agenda "Women, Peace and Security", having in mind that armed conflicts disproportionately affect women and girls.



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Moreover, the Council must ensure that the protection of children is at the core of any mission's mandate and that the highest standards of child protection and gender capacity and training are integrated into all missions.

And this brings me to my last point, accountability. We consider the accountability for crimes against peacekeepers and of peacekeepers, as an issue of paramount importance. In this vein, my country is ready to engage into discussions for a comprehensive international legal framework, which would clarify the circumstances under which UN Member States can exercise jurisdiction for misconduct and crimes committed by UN officials and experts on mission, as well as the categories of individuals and crimes subject to that jurisdiction.

Mr. President,

To conclude, Greece is committed to work towards strengthening the political unity within the Council, on the issue of Peacekeeping and expresses the sincere hope that the upcoming UN Peacekeeping Ministerial in Berlin will create a positive momentum for advancing adaptability in Peacekeeping Operations.

I Thank you.