



PERMANENT MISSION OF GREECE
TO THE UNITED NATIONS



**Security Council Meeting on the situation in Afghanistan
10 March 2025**

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

Thank you, Madame President.

I would like to thank Special Representative Ms. Otunbayeva as well as Ms. Raz Mohammad, CSO representative, for their briefings. I also welcome the presence of the esteemed Representative of Afghanistan, as well as the esteemed representatives of regional countries at today's meeting.

Madame President,

Greece reaffirms its support to UNAMA and stresses the need for the unimpeded renewal of its mandate. At the same time, and in line with Security Council Resolution 2721 (2023), we support the UN-led Doha process, as well as the recently established Working Groups on counter-narcotics and the

private sector and we call for the inclusive participation of women therein.

We advocate the continuation of principled engagement with the Taliban, with clear timelines and benchmarks. We reiterate that the respect of human rights and women's rights, the establishment of an inclusive government with the full, equal and meaningful participation of women, and the adherence of Afghanistan to its international obligations, are prerequisites for the normalization of the country's relations with the international community.

Madame President,

Allow me to point out the following points:

First, only two days ago, we commemorated the International Women's Day, honoring the social, economic and political achievements of women. Yet this day served as a painful reminder of the dire situation faced by the women and girls in Afghanistan.

With more than 80 directives and decrees targeting the autonomy and everyday lives of women, the Taliban continues to pursue policies of gender discrimination and practices of gender-based violence, which may amount to gender persecution.

The most recent example is the Law on Propagation of Virtue and Prevention of Vice, by which the Taliban attempts to erase women from public life and silence their voices.

My country Greece condemns, in the strongest terms, these egregious practices and urges the Taliban to put an end to the systematic and systemic violations of the human rights and fundamental freedoms of Afghan women and girls, while standing ready to welcome any steps towards accountability.

Moreover, we are deeply concerned about the human rights violations against ethnic and minority groups, as well as the reprisals against civil society representatives and human rights defenders who dare to expose the oppression of the de facto authorities. We also deplore the restrictions against journalists, which pose a serious threat to the freedom of the media.

Second, we remain deeply concerned about the continuing terrorist attacks in Afghanistan, which constitute one of the most serious threats to peace and security in the country and the region. We reiterate our position that Afghanistan should not become a safe haven for terrorism and we call on the Taliban to strengthen their efforts to combat terrorist activities.

Third, we are alarmed by the environmental degradation in Afghanistan, which is one of the countries most affected by climate change. Droughts, floods, and other extreme weather conditions are causing mass displacement and food insecurity. Water scarcity has a severe impact on rural populations in particular.

Madame President,

In closing, let me reiterate that Greece will continue to support a stable, prosperous and peaceful Afghanistan, with a view to the realization of the hopes and aspirations of the Afghan people, particularly women, girls and vulnerable groups, and stands

ready to contribute to any further engagement by the Council as necessary.

I thank you.