



PERMANENT MISSION OF GREECE
TO THE UNITED NATIONS



Security Council Briefing on UN peacekeeping Operations 7 April 2025

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

Thank you Mr. President.

I would like to thank Under Secretary General for peace operations, Mr. Jean-Pierre Lacroix, as well as the two Force Commanders of UNIFIL, Lt. General Aroldo Lázaro, and of MONUSCO Lt. General Ulisses De Mesquita Gomes, for their valuable briefings.

Greece, expresses its 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.

Mr. President,

Last September, our leaders adopted the Pact for the Future, with which they 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, with the upcoming UN Peacekeeping Ministerial in Berlin being a crucial step to this direction.

Mr. President,

Although the mandates of peace operations have been dramatically expanded the recent years, covering a multitude of issues and agendas, such as protection of civilians; women, peace and security; youth, peace and security and climate, peace and security, there is a task that always was and still remains in the core of any traditional peace operation: that is, the observation of ceasefires.

Regarding UNIFIL, as we have previously stated in the Council, for years the Mission has been playing a constructive role in monitoring the cessation of hostilities, enabling thus the full and sustainable implementation of the ceasefire and, ultimately, a long-lasting peace in the region. Greece will continue to have an active presence in this UN Mission, with the participation of highly qualified and gender-balanced staff.

The continuously deteriorating situation in eastern Democratic Republic of the Congo, is a source of constant concern, specifically due to the severe humanitarian repercussions of the crisis. The Council must pursue the full implementation of its recent Resolution 2773 which sent a clear, strong message to M23, to immediately cease hostilities and withdraw from Goma, Bukavu and all other controlled areas. The role of MONUSCO will be crucial when a ceasefire is achieved in this context and we stand by to further support this.

Another Mission of particular interest for my country is UNFICYP. In this context, Greece reiterates its satisfaction for the recent unanimous adoption of the UN Security Council Resolution to renew the mandate of UNFICYP for 12 months. Through this Resolution, the Council expressed its strong support to the Mission that plays an invaluable role in maintaining peace and security and deescalating tensions in the buffer zone in Cyprus. Maintaining a safe and secure environment is crucial in order to support the efforts of the Secretary-General for the ultimate resumption of negotiations in line with UN parameters and relevant Security Council Resolutions.

Mr. President,

Having said that, let me highlight 3 ways for the improvement of the monitoring of ceasefire agreements by peace operations:

Firstly, technology can provide tremendous possibilities for the enhancement of operational efficiency and the reduction of risks to personnel.

Just last Friday, Greece, together with France and the Republic of Korea convened a Security Council Arria Meeting on “Harnessing safe, inclusive, trustworthy AI for the maintenance of international peace and security”, during which we had the chance to discuss on opportunities created by the rapid advancement of Artificial Intelligence, for peacekeeping operations. As it was mentioned by many participants in that meeting, AI-related technologies could be harnessed for peacekeepers’ training, logistic support, landmines detection, mapping and clearance, surveillance or monitoring tasks. Reversely, it became clear that these technologies can also be misused to carry out malicious cyberattacks, to disseminate hate speech, or to undermine populations’ trust in peacekeepers through disinformation campaigns.

Secondly, the role of the host states, the local populations, the parties to the conflict and even some times of the neighboring or other interested States, is crucial for the effective monitoring of ceasefire agreements by peace operations. 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 and accountability for human rights or humanitarian law violations, while planning a peace operation mandate. Moreover, it is necessary that the peace operations keep the channels of communications open on a regular basis with all actors that can affect the observance of ceasefires.

Finally, Greece recognizes the growing importance of partnerships and cooperation between the United Nations and regional, subregional and relevant international organizations and arrangements, inter alia, in planning and conducting peacekeeping and in strengthening coherence between their political strategies. In this respect, we echo all those asking to strengthen the role of partnerships in the monitoring of ceasefires by peace operations.



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Let me mention as best example the strategic partnership between the United Nations and the European Union on peacekeeping. Also, I wish to commend the crucial role of the African Union and African subregional organizations and arrangements in efforts to prevent, mediate and settle conflicts on the African continent, and their contribution to peacekeeping efforts in the region, particularly in dangerous environments of unconventional threats.

To conclude, Mr. President,

Greece, as a troop-contributing country, calls upon the Council to continuing ensuring that the monitoring of ceasefires maintains its central position in the mandates of peace operations, always in full respect of International Law, in particular the UN Charter, the International Humanitarian Law and Human Rights Law.

I Thank you.