



**PERMANENT MISSION OF GREECE  
TO THE UNITED NATIONS**



## **Security Council Briefing on Colombia 22 April 2025**

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

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Mr. President,

I would like to thank Special Representative Carlos Ruiz Massieu and the representative of civil society Ms. Molano Casas for their informative briefings. I also welcome the presence of H.E. Laura Sarabia, Minister of Foreign Affairs of Colombia and wish to congratulate her on her recent appointment.

Mr. President,

Following the eruption of violence in Catatumbo, three months ago, Greece commends the Colombian Government for its management of the situation on the ground, particularly its emphasis on the protection of civilians and humanitarian response. We also appreciate the Government's renewed commitment to the 2016 Peace Agreement, which we consider the cornerstone of the peace process.

In this context, I would like to highlight the following three points:

Firstly, the crisis in Catatumbo tested the limits of the Total Peace Agenda, further underscoring the need for accelerated implementation of the Peace Agreement. The Colombian authorities' engagement in multiple parallel dialogues, coupled with the continuous fragmentation of the armed groups, strain government resources. At the same time, the predominantly economic, and not ideological, motives of the armed groups raise concerns about their reliability as peace partners. It is therefore essential that political dialogues prioritize actors genuinely committed to the peace process and that the establishment of peace agreements be accompanied by a strengthened state presence in the affected territories, to prevent power vacuums that could be exploited by rival armed groups.

In parallel, the economic development of these areas is of paramount importance. In this regard, we commend the implementation of "development programs with a territorial focus", which aim at accelerating rural reform in the territories mostly affected by conflict. It is also noteworthy that, in the face of the climate crisis, rural reform in Colombia integrates environmental considerations, such as sustainable land use. And of course, the successful completion of land distribution is crucial for the reintegration of ex-combatants, allowing for stable livelihoods and housing.

Secondly, the role of transitional justice in Colombia is a determining factor for the success of the peace process. We are confident that the Special Jurisdiction for Peace will proceed quickly with the issuance of restorative sentences in the following months.

Thirdly, the protection of indigenous people and Afro-colombian populations, who are disproportionately affected by the above-mentioned structural injustices, is indispensable. In this regard, we call for the acceleration of the implementation of the Ethnic Chapter of the Peace Agreement. The recruitment and use of children by armed groups, including of indigenous girls for sexual exploitation, is particularly alarming and must be immediately addressed. In this respect, we appreciate the Government's commitment to the Children in Armed Conflict Agenda, as evidenced by the recent visit of the Security Council CAAC Working Group to Colombia last December. We are also deeply concerned by the killings and human rights violations of social leaders and human rights defenders, as well as by the challenges women still face in achieving full, equal and meaningful participation in peacebuilding and in decision-making positions.

Mr. President,

In conclusion, Greece reiterates its unwavering support to the UN Verification Mission in Colombia and to the Special Representative of the Secretary General, recognizing their invaluable contributions to promoting the effective implementation of the Peace Agreement. For our part, we remain committed to supporting the Colombian Government in its efforts to fully implement the Peace Agreement that will ultimately rectify the inequalities of the past.

I thank you.