



PERMANENT MISSION OF GREECE
TO THE UNITED NATIONS



**Security Council High-Level Open Debate on
“Poverty, Underdevelopment and Conflict: Implications for the Maintenance of
International Peace and Security”
19 June 2025**

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

Thank you Mr. President.

At the outset, allow me to commend the Cooperative Republic of Guyana and Your Excellency Mr. Foreign Minister for convening this timely and highly relevant debate. I also like to thank the Secretary General and the distinguished briefers for their insightful remarks.

Mr. President,

As we mark the 80th anniversary of the signing of the United Nations Charter, we are reminded that our shared vision of international peace and sustainable development founded on respect for international law and international humanitarian law, remains unfinished. Around the world, conflicts continue to erase years of progress, while structural conditions such as inequality, exclusion, and weak governance undermine the foundations of stability.

These overlapping crises have hit low-income countries the hardest: Extreme poverty has become increasingly concentrated in Sub-Saharan Africa and places affected by conflict and fragility according to World Bank’s data. To achieve stronger, inclusive economies and prosperous societies our policy decisions need to be guided by SDG 1: Ending poverty in all its forms everywhere.

Addressing the root causes of conflict by reducing poverty and inequality is one of the central pillars of Greece’s commitment for global peace. Specifically, Greece has recently funded World Food Programme’s (WFP) project for the restoration of the Port of Benghazi in Libya, which serves as a critical entry point for food and humanitarian aid to

the wider region of North Africa & the Sahel, and WHO's rehabilitation project for the Al-Khair Hospital in Gaza, a critical referral point for displaced populations.

Mr. President,

Greece firmly believes that poverty and underdevelopment are not just development concerns—they are fundamental threats to peace and security. As outlined in the Secretary-General's New Agenda for Peace, conflict prevention must be rooted in inclusive development, social cohesion, and institutional resilience.

In this context, allow me to highlight four key areas of focus:

First, we need to strengthen and mainstream existing approaches to address the root causes of conflict, such as poverty, food insecurity, absence of rule of law and violent extremism. Closely interlinking our humanitarian, development and peace efforts is key to being more efficient on the ground in conformity with the triple "Humanitarian-Development-Peace" nexus.

In this respect, the Peacebuilding Commission (PBC) is ideally placed to raise awareness on regional efforts, local communities' expertise, as well as the cross-border dimension of conflicts. We welcome its advice, which is not only valuable to us in the context of this meeting, but can also guide us in our future endeavors. For this reason, Greece, during this year's Peacebuilding Architecture Review (PBAR), reiterates its strong support for expanding PBC's role in regional settings and cross-cutting areas, including human rights and climate-related peace and security risks. In this respect, cooperation with the AU Commission remains crucial.

Second, peace must be inclusive to be durable. In line with SDG 16 (End Conflict and corruption). Greece champions participatory and representative governance at all levels. The full and meaningful participation of women, youth, and marginalized communities is indispensable for creating resilient institutions and achieving long-term development goals.

Third, we call for greater investment in conflict prevention and peacebuilding. We strongly encourage all Member States to agree on raising assessed contributions to meet conflict-affected countries' rising requirements for support by the Peacebuilding Fund (PBF). Additionally, formalizing PBC's relationship with International Financial Institutions (IFI) & Regional Development Banks, and strengthening its cooperation with ECOSOC, can better operationalize its development impact on the ground.

Fourth, Greece remains committed to the collective aspiration to enhance the conservation and sustainable use of oceans and their resources by implementing international law as reflected in the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS), in line with target 14.c of SDG 14 of Agenda 2030.

Mr. President,

In closing, let me stress that Greece supports a rules-based global order, with multilateralism as its key principle and the United Nations at its core. We remain committed to multilateralism and to a UN system that is more responsive, inclusive, and aligned with the real needs of those most at risk.

Let us seize this milestone year - UN80 - as a moment to recommit to a vision of peace anchored in dignity, equity, and opportunity for all.

I thank you.