



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



Security Council Briefing on the Situation concerning Iraq (UNAMI) 10 June 2025

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

Thank you Madam President,

I would also like to thank the Special Representative of the Secretary-General for Iraq and Head of UNAMI, Mohamed Al Hassan, for his detailed briefing.

And as this is the first time Greece takes the floor on the Situation in Iraq, I would like to welcome the Representative of Iraq, as well as the Representative of Kuwait to this briefing.

In view of the imminent end of UNAMI's mandate, we welcome the efforts of the Government of Iraq, in its pursuit of peace, stability and development, as well as its commendable diplomatic outreach in the region.

To be more specific, I would like to highlight the following four points:

1. First, Iraq will thrive as political and economic stability is further reinforced and positive steps have been taken in the right direction. In this context, Greece welcomes the decision of the Government of Iraq to hold parliamentary elections on November 11. The assistance of the UN, through the Independent High Electoral Commission, is critical in this regard and we would like to express our full support to the Mission's invaluable contribution. Equally important, as outlined by SRSG Al Hassan, is the inclusion and meaningful participation of women, minorities, and underrepresented groups in all stages of the electoral and political process.

We also welcome the holding of elections in the Iraqi region of Kurdistan, last October, as a positive development. Now, it is crucial for its political leadership to work together for the swift formation of an effective regional government. Equally, it is imperative to advance Erbil's cooperation with Baghdad towards solving pending issues and overcoming domestic challenges. We echo the calls for permanent and sustainable solutions to be found in this regard.

2. Second, on the field of security, we encourage Iraq to continue efforts to assert state authority over armed actors and support disarmament and reintegration processes. In this respect, we commend Iraq's concerted efforts to accelerate the return of all its nationals from northeastern Syria, including from Al-Hol, as well as to expedite the reintegration of internally displaced persons into Iraqi society on the basis of voluntary, safe and sustainable returns. The issue of unexploded ordinance must also be addressed, as civilian casualties continue to occur.

3. Third, guaranteeing human rights and promoting social inclusion is an invaluable investment for a better future. Any amendments to the Personal Status Law must be in line with the country's international human rights obligations, particularly in relation to safeguarding the rights and well-being of women and children. Furthermore, the right to freedom of expression plays a crucial role in maintaining the sustainability of democratic governance. Finding a solution to the issue of enforced disappearances in coordination with the UN also remains vital.

4. Last but not least, we highlight the need for continued progress in the search for missing Kuwaiti and third country nationals, as well as in the recovery and return of Kuwaiti missing property, including the national archives. The Tripartite Commission, under the leadership of the ICRC, has consistently contributed to the search, identification, and return of the remains of missing persons. In parallel, we warmly welcome the recent training of Iraqi and Kuwaiti experts by the Committee on Missing Persons in Cyprus as a great paradigm of what can be achieved through joint efforts and exchange of valuable know-how and expertise.

Absent an agreement between the two sides on the way forward, we take note of the recent recommendations of the Secretary General on an appropriate follow-on mechanism and look forward to engaging with all parties on the optimal way to proceed.

We are encouraged by the efforts of Iraq and Kuwait to strengthen bilateral relations, also through the assignment of Envoys to facilitate the resolution of outstanding issues.

In concluding, Madam President,

As UNAMI's drawdown progresses, it is important to find a way forward, to maintain and advance the UN-Iraq partnership. Greece fully supports Iraq's sovereignty, stability and territorial integrity and wholeheartedly wishes to see the country succeed, to the benefit first and foremost of its people, but also of the wider region. We will continue to engage and fully support the work of the UN in this regard.

Thank you.