



PERMANENT MISSION OF GREECE
TO THE UNITED NATIONS



**Arria Formula Meeting on “The Global Race for Critical Minerals:
Addressing Resource-Driven Insecurity in Africa”
9 July 2025**

Greece’s Statement delivered by
Mr. Nikolaos Oikonomidis, Counsellor
at the Permanent Mission of Greece to the United Nations, New York

Thank you Chair.

Greece would like to commend and thank Sierra Leone for convening this timely meeting on the Global Race for the Critical Minerals, as well as Guyana, the Democratic Republic of Congo and Liberia for their co-sponsorship of the meeting. Let me also thank today’s briefers for their insightful preentations.

Chair,

Allow me to emphasize the following points:

First, as a country with significant mineral resources, such as Europe’s largest known bauxite deposits, and with a capacity to supply critical minerals for the foreseeable future, crucial for various new technologies, Greece places particular emphasis on this important issue.

My country is poised, also, to play a pivotal role in the EU's endeavor on diversifying and building resilient supply chains and, in this context, we believe that sustainable supply chains could be instrumental to the added value that the critical minerals can bring to economies around the world and particularly to Africa.

Second, the global race for critical minerals in Africa presents a complex mix of opportunities and risks, impacting the continent's geopolitical landscape and security.

While these minerals are vital for the global energy transition and technological advancements, their extraction and trade, if not managed well, with transparency and accountability, can fuel existing conflicts and trigger new ones.

Thus, systematic illicit exploitation and trafficking of critical minerals, wherever these occur, can exacerbate insecurity, instability and threaten the sovereignty, independence, unity and territorial integrity of several States of the region. The latest crisis and conflict in eastern DRC is a visible testimony of that and of the way critical minerals can further complicate political relations, on a bilateral and regional context, as well as lead to human rights violations, displacements and territorial disputes.

That said, it is known that African countries have high potential to contribute to the global supply of critical minerals, as they are home to approximately one third of the world's critical minerals reserves. The development of the critical minerals sector in Africa presents significant opportunities for economic growth, job creation and improved infrastructure.

However, realizing these benefits requires strong governance, transparent and equitable benefit-sharing mechanisms, and a commitment to sustainable development practices, as highlighted also by our briefers.

Chair,

We believe that integrating sustainable critical minerals value chains, facilitating investments for development and infrastructure, achieving sustainable and responsible production and utilization, as well as increasing capacity building, are some of the necessary tools that African countries could use.

This, in order to benefit from their natural wealth, strengthen the local economies, achieve economy diversification, minimize environmental damage and health impacts and ensure regional prosperity, peace and security.

I thank you.