



PERMANENT MISSION OF GREECE
TO THE UNITED NATIONS



**Security Council briefing on
the Maintenance of international peace and security: UN Peace Operations
“Adapting Peace operations for the pursuit of political solutions – priorities and
challenges”**

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Greece's Statement delivered
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Thank you Mr. President,

At the outset I would like to welcome this briefing, which is focusing on one of the most crucial aspects of UN peace operations, namely the need to adapt them in order to be better positioned to pursue political solutions.

I would also like to thank Under Secretary General Mr. Jean-Pierre Lacroix, Assistant Secretary General Ms. Martha Pobee and Mr. Zeid Ra'ad Al Hussein, for their insightful briefings.

I wish to reiterate Greece's sincere gratitude to the men and women peacekeepers who are committed into serving under the most challenging circumstances. Their service is not unnoticed as they continue to serve with distinction as our partner for peace, to echo the Secretary-General.

At the same time, we honour the memory of those who have lost their lives in the line of duty.

Mr. President,

UN peace operations constitute one of the most effective, universally acceptable and indispensable mechanisms within the UN, for the maintenance of international peace and stability.

In the Secretary General's "New Agenda for Peace", it is stated that peace operations are an essential part of the diplomatic toolbox of the Charter of the UN, representing "effective multilateralism in action".

In his ambitious document, the Secretary General recommends for the Security Council to ensure that the primacy of politics remains a central tenet of peace operations.

Similarly, in Action 21 of the Pact for the Future, we all agreed that peace operations can only succeed when political solutions are actively pursued.

As an elected member of the Security Council, Greece remains fully committed to working towards strengthening the political unity within the Council, on the issue of Peacekeeping.

Today, I would highlight the following three points on adapting peace operations for the pursuit of political solutions:

Firstly, it is important that a clear political process is a core element of the mandates of all peace operations.

The Council should ensure that the primacy of a political solution remains a central element of peace operations and also reflects on adaptable and effective mission models while devising transition and exit strategies, where appropriate. At the same time, we are convinced that the UN80 initiative, launched by the UN Secretary General, offers a unique opportunity to review Peace Operations' mandates with the final aim of making them more operational and result – oriented.

In the same spirit, we believe that the UN Office of Rule of Law and Security Institutions (OROLSI) is well-equipped to offer expertise and guidance for both conflict prevention and conflict resolution, in addition to more traditional conflict resolution and peacekeeping.

Secondly, in implementing Action 21 (3) of the Pact for the Future, we propose that the Council authorizes peacekeeping operations and peace support operations, including peace enforcement, which are accompanied by an inclusive political strategy and other non-military approaches and address the causes of conflict.

On that respect, the Council should ensure the maintenance of the host nation's consent and a greater integration between peacekeeping, peacebuilding and conflict prevention, always in coordination with the troop and police contributing countries and the host country.

UNIFIL offers us a good example in this regard. Last week, a Lebanese Navy Ship joined a UNIFIL Maritime Task Forces Ship in patrolling the territorial waters in Lebanon, which I visited recently. Greece has an active presence in UNIFIL with one frigate and, thus, warmly welcomes this development, as it is indicative of the importance of joint activities.

Thirdly, we cannot agree more with the need for all peace operations to be equipped with the necessary resources and capabilities, including technological means, to pursue their mandates, primarily those related to the search for political solutions.

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

Last April, 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.

Let me recall that one of the main outcomes of that discussion is the support to the idea that AI-related technologies could be harnessed for peacekeepers’ training, logistic support, landmines detection, surveillance or monitoring tasks.

To conclude, Mr. President, Greece will continue to work together with its fellow Council members towards the review of the future of all forms of UN peace operations, including their adaptation for the pursuit of political solutions.

I thank you