



PERMANENT MISSION OF GREECE  
TO THE UNITED NATIONS



**Security Council Open Debate on  
“Identifying innovative strategies to ensure access to life-saving services and  
protection for survivors of sexual violence in conflict zones”**

**19 August 2025**

Greece’s Statement delivered  
by Mr. Ioannis Stamatekos,  
Deputy Permanent Representative of Greece to the United Nations, New York

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Thank you Mr. President,

At the outset let me begin by commending Panama for convening this important Open Debate. I would also like to thank the Special Representative of the Secretary General on Sexual Violence in Conflict Ms. Pramila Patten for her comprehensive, yet sobering briefing. Greece is grateful for her work and the work of her office in delivering this very important mandate. Allow me also to thank Ms. Ahmed for her remarks.

Mr. President,

The SG’s latest annual report provides a stark reminder of the persistent and widespread use of sexual and gender-based violence in conflict. In the Central African Republic, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Sudan, Afghanistan, Haiti, Ukraine, Israel and the Occupied Palestinian Territories, women and girls continue to endure rape, sexual slavery, forced prostitution, forced pregnancy, forced marriage and other acts of comparable gravity. Greece firmly condemns all forms of CRSV and calls on all parties to conflict to immediately cease such crimes. We also urge all parties to conflict annexed in the report to adopt time-bound measures and action plans to prevent and address CRSV and to fully implement them. In this respect, we welcome the fact that certain state and non-state actors have indeed undertaken relevant commitments and we encourage them to fulfill them.

Mr. President,

In view of the above, allow me to highlight three areas where collective action could make a difference in responding to CRSV:

**First**, we must ensure all parties to conflict adhere to international humanitarian law, by allowing unhindered humanitarian access so that multi-sectoral assistance can reach survivors of CRSV. Access to life-saving services should be inclusive, survivor-centered and grounded in international human rights law, developed in close cooperation with relevant UN mechanisms and civil society organizations active on the ground. To this end, the safety and security of humanitarian and UN personnel is indispensable, as is the protection of civilian infrastructure that enables the provision of healthcare, education and psychosocial support to survivors of CRSV.

**Second**, we need to empower survivors and heal the physical, psychological and intergenerational trauma they have suffered. The victimization, stigmatization, marginalization and exclusion of survivors of CRSV threatens social cohesion and often leads to a dangerous spiral of insecurity, poverty and further violence. By including survivors in all stages of prevention, protection, relief and recovery from CRSV, we are able to heal its long-term effects. The first step in this direction is to ensure that peace processes, peace agreements and mediation processes are gender-responsive. However, the real step towards empowerment is to engage survivors of CRSV in these processes and enable their full, equal, meaningful and safe participation.

**Third**, at the level of the UN and the Security Council, we must employ all available tools. In the context of Mission transitions and drawdowns, no efforts should be spared so that CRSV protection know-how is transferred and not lost. This could be achieved by retaining or further deploying women's protection advisers. At the same time, it is important to make sure that sexual violence is incorporated as a standalone designation criterion in all sanction regimes. And of course, all international accountability avenues should be explored, to address CRSV and uphold the rights of survivors.

In conclusion, Mr. President, I would like to reiterate Greece's unwavering support to the mandate of the Special Representative of the Secretary General on Sexual Violence in Conflict. We remain committed to working closely with her office to break the vicious cycle of CRSV, heal its devastating scars and restore justice and social cohesion.

I thank you.