



PERMANENT MISSION OF GREECE
TO THE UNITED NATIONS



**Security Council Open Debate on the
“Maintenance of international peace and security: The future of peace operations
- Key issues, opportunities and challenges in the context of the review on the
future of all UN peace operations”**

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Greece's Statement delivered
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Thank you, Mr. President.

At the outset, I would like to congratulate the Republic of Korea for assuming the Presidency of the Security Council for the month of September and commend you for convening today's timely debate in collaboration with Denmark and Pakistan. I would also like to thank Under Secretary General Mr. Lacroix, Under Secretary General Ms. DiCarlo, the DPR of Germany in his capacity as Chair of the Peacebuilding Commission Mr. Zahneisen and Director of Research of the International Peace Institute Ms. Jenna Russo for their very informative briefings.

Mr. President,

Eight decades since the first deployments, UN peace operations remain one of the most visible and effective tools of this Council to maintain international peace and security. They have saved lives, prevented escalation, and enabled political processes. Greece pays tribute to the men and women who serve under the UN flag, and honors the memory of those who have fallen in the line of duty. Attacks against peacekeepers are unacceptable and a serious violation of SC Resolutions and international law.

Mr. President,

I would like to highlight three points:

First, as agreed in the Pact of the Future, peace operations must adapt to better respond to existing challenges and new realities, without compromising their core functions. This adjustment should be a critical element of the review on the future of peace operations. While over the years mandates have come to include protection of civilians, human rights, women, youth, and even climate dimensions, the observation and monitoring of ceasefires remain at the heart of peacekeeping. This is what creates the space necessary for diplomacy to succeed.

In this respect, Greece warmly welcomed the Council's unanimous renewal of UNFICYP's mandate earlier this year. This mission continues to play an irreplaceable role in maintaining stability on the island, de-escalating tensions in the buffer zone, and supporting the efforts of the Secretary-General and his Personal Envoy to resume negotiations in line with UN parameters.

Greece also supported the renewal of UNIFIL's mandate. We consider the Mission a reliable and critical partner of the Lebanese government and a pillar of stability for Lebanon and the entire region. The transition of the Mission needs to be safe and orderly, and in close coordination with the host country. At the same time, the Council has a responsibility to address the repercussions emanating from ending the mandate and to ensure that it will not create a security vacuum.

As a longstanding troop-contributing country, Greece remains committed to supporting these missions with qualified and gender-balanced personnel.

In addition, the Pact of the Future rightly underscores the importance of maritime security as an integral component of international peace and security. Maritime insecurity -whether through illicit arms flows, trafficking, piracy, or attacks against commercial shipping- directly undermines fragile peace processes and often intersects with the mandates of UN operations, from enforcing arms embargoes to ensuring humanitarian access. Addressing such threats requires closer cooperation between UN peace operations, regional organizations, and coastal states. As a maritime nation, Greece strongly supports efforts to reinforce the maritime security dimension of peace operations, in line with the Pact's holistic and preventive approach.

Second, innovation is essential to make peace operations more agile and effective. Technology -and AI in particular- can provide tremendous possibilities for the enhancement of operational efficiency and the reduction of risks to personnel. But at the same time, we must guard against the misuse of such technologies to spread disinformation or undermine the credibility of peacekeepers. This was extensively

discussed during last April's Arria Meeting, which was organized by Greece, France and the Republic of Korea.

Third, partnerships with host countries, local communities, and regional organizations are vital to the success of peacekeeping. In this respect, Greece strongly supports the strategic partnerships of the UN with the European Union. We also commend the contribution of the African Union and subregional bodies in conflict prevention, mediation, and peacekeeping.

Lastly, financial constraints should not compromise the core civilian and uniformed capacities of the missions. Neither should it weaken their safety and effectiveness. Elements like the protection of civilians, gender, and human rights priorities are not optional add-ons, but the foundation of any lasting peace.

Mr. President,

As the review on the future of UN peace operations unfolds, this Council has a responsibility to ensure that these missions remain fit for purpose. In the spirit of the Pact of the Future and the vision of UN80, Greece will continue to work in order to ensure that all UN peace operations are deployed in full respect of International Law, including the UN Charter, international humanitarian law and human rights law.

I thank you.