



PERMANENT MISSION OF GREECE
TO THE UNITED NATIONS



**Security Council briefing on
the situation in Afghanistan (UNAMA)
17 September 2025**

Greece's Statement delivered
by HE Ms. Aglaia Balta
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Mr. President,

I would like to thank Special Representative Roza Otunbayeva for her remarks and for her tireless work in Afghanistan for the past three years. I would also like to thank Ms. Hanifa Girowal for her sobering briefing, but also for her dedication and leadership.

Mr. President,

Four years after seizing control of Afghanistan, the Taliban remain unwilling to cooperate with the international community and honor their international obligations. Afghan women, half of the country's population, are effectively erased from public life. The 2024 Afghanistan Gender Index, published by UN Women last June, is revealing. So is the Secretary General's latest Report on Conflict-related sexual violence. The segregation of women in public spaces, the enforcement of strict dress codes and the requirement for a male guardian are only some aspects of the Law on the Propagation of Virtue and the Prevention of Vice that are utterly unacceptable.

In view of the above, I would like to make the following three points:

First, Greece strongly condemns the violations and abuses of human rights and fundamental freedoms of all Afghans, particularly women and girls, and calls upon the Taliban to immediately reverse all restrictive policies and practices and comply with their international obligations. A stricter implementation of Sharia law and a belief that it can replace a democratic constitution are very concerning. Equally alarming is the shrinking of civic space, the backlash against peaceful protests and the restrictions on media freedom and freedom of expression through the regulation of the use of smartphones, social media and the conduct of political debates.

Second, despite the country's modest economic growth, the humanitarian situation remains deeply worrying. Food insecurity has reached unprecedented levels, with 9.5 million people facing crisis or emergency conditions. At the same time, natural disasters, such as the earthquakes that recently struck the country, further exacerbate the already dire situation on the ground. Greece expresses its condolences to the people of Afghanistan and the families of the victims and its gratitude to all organizations of the UN system that work tirelessly to provide life-saving assistance.

Third, I would like to reiterate Greece's full support to UNAMA and its proposed roadmap to foster a more coherent, coordinated, and structured engagement between the international community and the Taliban. The meetings of the two working groups on counternarcotics and the private sector on 30 June and 1 July are developments to the right direction. We also commend the focus of discussions on female entrepreneurship and we call for furthering the full, equal, meaningful and safe participation of Afghan women in this process, and the inclusion of all segments of Afghan society.

Mr. President,

Greece strongly believes in the resilience of the Afghan people and in the country's potential to reintegrate into the international community. For this to happen though, the Taliban must uphold their international obligations in full: respect human rights, restore women to their rightful place in society, establish an inclusive government and counter terrorism.

I thank you.