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TO THE UNITED NATIONS



**Security Council Briefing on the implementation of the Peace,
Security and Cooperation Framework for the Democratic Republic of
the Congo and the Region (Great Lakes Region)
13 October 2025**

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

Thank you Mr. President.

I would like to start by thanking SESG Xia for his comprehensive briefing. I would also like to welcome the participation of the representatives of the Democratic Republic of the Congo and Rwanda to this meeting.

Mr. President,

The Great Lakes region stands at a critical moment. The offensive of the M23 in North and South Kivu in DRC continues to have grave humanitarian and security consequences. Cross border tensions and a potential spillover of the conflict continue to affect regional stability.

I would like to make three points:

First, the Resolution 2773 must be implemented immediately, fully and unconditionally. M23 must immediately cease hostilities and withdraw all troops from Goma, Bukavu and all other controlled areas. We reiterate our steadfast support for the independence, sovereignty and territorial integrity of the DRC.

We align with the UN Secretary General urging all signatory countries of the Peace, Security and Cooperation Framework to uphold the principles of sovereignty and territorial integrity of all the States of the Great Lakes region and refrain from aiding, supporting or tolerating illegal armed groups.

We commend the United States and Qatar for their peace facilitating efforts. We urge the DRC and Rwanda to accelerate the implementation of their commitments as provided by the Washington Peace Agreement. We also welcome DRC's and AFC/M23's return to Doha in late August.

Second, we are deeply concerned about the exacerbation of an already dire humanitarian situation as described also by Special Envoy Xia today. The continuous M23 offensive both in North and South Kivu has led to a further and mounting increase of IDPs in the Great Lakes Region. Food insecurity, recurring communicable diseases and natural disasters triggered by climate change remain major challenges in the Region. We strongly condemn all human rights violations and abuses in the countries of the Region, as reported by the UNSG.

We are particularly concerned about the grave human rights violations and abuses committed against women and children, notably large-scale recruitment and use of children, abductions, killings and maiming, and shocking levels of sexual violence. We welcome all efforts towards peaceful resolution and reconciliation. In this context, we praise the French initiative to organize together with Togo, mediator for the African Union, in Paris, on October 30th a conference aiming at supporting peace and security in the region.

Third, we commend the Special Envoy for his continuous good offices and for his engagement with leaders of the Region in complementing and coordinating regional and international peace efforts.

We also commend his Office for its advocacy, collaboration and engagement for a sustainable and transparent governance of natural resources in the Great Lakes, especially in the mining sector. Strong regional cooperation, value chain integration, increased capacity building with regard to the mineral wealth can ensure prosperity, peace and security for the Region.

In conclusion, Mr. President,

We align with the Secretary General on his assessment that building trust and confidence between all the countries of the Great Lakes Region is key to lasting peace, stability and prosperity.

Greece will continue to engage constructively with all partners for this purpose in the Security Council and bilaterally.

I thank you.