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Security Council Arria - Formula Meeting on
"Maritime Safety and Security: Protection of Seafarers"
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Greece's Statement delivered
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Attacks on international shipping have increased, violating the freedom of navigation. They jeopardize the safety of seafarers and other persons at sea, pose serious risks to the marine environment, disrupt maritime transport and global supply chains and endanger food and energy security and economic stability.

You may recall, the bloody attacks on the commercial ships *Magic Seas* and *Eternity C* resulted in the death of four seafarers and the sinking of both ships, while at least 10 members of the crew are still being held hostage by the Houthis.

Recently, in the beginning of November two tankers have been attacked by pirates off the coast of Somalia.

Meanwhile, EUNAVFOR Operations ATALANTA and ASPIDES continue to play an important role in safeguarding safety and security in the area.

These developments underscore the intrinsic link between the protection of seafarers and the maintenance of international peace and security.

The Security Council has previously expressed concern regarding the impact of piracy and armed robbery at sea on seafarers, such as hostage situations and associated violence. Additionally, the Council has acknowledged the humanitarian consequences these incidents may have for seafarers and their families.

Piracy and other threats to maritime security seriously jeopardize the safety of seafarers.

In addition, conflicts and the pandemic that seafarers have encountered in recent years have affected their safety and welfare. Incidents of abandonment increase, and arbitrary detentions for alleged crimes frequently occur.

Cooperation between all stakeholders should focus on addressing these problems. Training of seafarers to face such risks is key for their protection and should be enhanced.

Furthermore, taking into account the limited numbers of women in the shipping industry, it is important to raise awareness and to create appropriate conditions that foster the elimination of discrimination and the promotion of women's empowerment.

A secure maritime domain is fundamental for achieving sustainable development and for upholding a rules-based international order at sea, with UNCLOS at its core. It is in a secure maritime domain that seafarers can safely and efficiently work, thus promoting global economy and sustainable development.