



PERMANENT MISSION OF GREECE
TO THE UNITED NATIONS



**Security Council Open Debate on
Leadership for Peace (“Maintenance of International Peace and Security”)
15 December 2025**

Greece’s Statement delivered
by Mr. Ioannis Stamatelos

Deputy Permanent Representative of Greece to the United Nations, New York

Thank you, Mr. President.

I welcome H.E. Mr. Ban Ki-moon, Elder Emeritus and Former Secretary-General of the United Nations, whose presence is a reminder of the weight of responsibility carried by the leadership of this Organization.

Moreover, I thank Professor Dayal for her remarks.

I also commend Slovenia for reviving the discussion on *Leadership for Peace*, building on the High-Level Week debate and the subsequent Presidential Statement. At that debate, the Minister of Foreign Affairs of Greece, Mr. Georgios Gerapetritis, stressed that the UN Charter must remain our compass, and that renewed leadership is essential to safeguard the peaceful settlement of disputes.

Today, I wish to expand on those remarks and outline Greece’s expectations of the leadership that the United Nations—and particularly the Secretary-General—must demonstrate in this challenging era.

Mr. President,

The role of the Secretary-General, as defined in the UN Charter, encompasses a broad and flexible set of instruments for the pursuit of peace: good offices, mediation, facilitation, preventive diplomacy, and, where appropriate, arbitration. The Charter provides a firm basis for a proactive and engaged Secretary-General.

We strongly supports the Secretary-General’s use of these tools which strengthens the UN’s mediation and conflict-prevention capacities.

Special Political Missions and peace operations also illustrate how leadership shared between the Secretary-General and the Security Council can avert, mitigate, and help end armed conflicts. These missions must be grounded in coherent mandates, adequate resources, and close coordination with the Council.

In this context, Greece commends the Secretary-General's invocation of Article 99 regarding the crisis in Gaza—the first such invocation since 1989—which called attention to the dire humanitarian situation and pressed the Council to prevent an even greater catastrophe. This was a historic example of principled, Charter-based leadership at a moment of profound urgency.

The next Secretary-General must also carry forward the UN80 Reform process—an ambitious effort to make the Organization more efficient, responsive, and sustainable. This will require navigating conditions of constrained liquidity at a time when conflict needs are expanding worldwide. Hard choices and careful prioritization will be unavoidable. But they must be guided by a commitment to effectiveness, accountability, and coherence across the three pillars of the UN's work.

Mr. President,

The next Secretary-General will assume office at a transformative moment for the multilateral system. As Slovenia's concept note highlights, the UN faces a convergence of crises: armed conflicts, climate-induced insecurity, global inequalities, food insecurity, destabilizing technologies, and new risks that transcend borders. Meeting these challenges demands principled, adaptive, and courageous leadership.

Greece identifies three essential expectations:

First, the next Secretary-General must lead and implement the UN80 Reform Agenda, ensuring the Organization is fit-for-purpose. This includes improving mandate design, strengthening financial sustainability, overcoming fragmentation, and enhancing the UN's ability to deliver across peace, development, and human rights.

Second, the Secretary-General must remain a steadfast defender of the UN Charter, international law, and human rights. At a time when multilateralism is questioned and revisionist narratives are gaining ground, the UN must reaffirm its foundational principles. The peaceful settlement of disputes must be elevated, not eroded.

Third, prevention must become central to UN action. Earlier and more systematic engagement—political, humanitarian, developmental, and human-rights based—is vital. Enhanced cooperation with regional organizations, stronger engagement with civil society, women and youth, and better use of early-warning and data-driven analysis will significantly strengthen the UN's preventive capacity.

Mr. President,

Next year, the United Nations will launch the selection process for its next Secretary-General. Greece's views are principled and longstanding. The process must be open, inclusive, transparent, and merit-based, and guided by the relevant Revitalization Resolution. We welcome the Joint Letter of the Presidents of the General Assembly and the Security Council reaffirming these commitments. Greece also firmly believes that the time has come for a woman to be considered for this highest international responsibility. At the same time, the process must ensure fair geographical representation, reflecting the universality of the United Nations.



PERMANENT MISSION OF GREECE
TO THE UNITED NATIONS



Mr. President,

Ultimately, leadership for peace is a shared responsibility. No Secretary-General can succeed without a Security Council united in its defence of the Charter and committed to peace. For Greece—a country deeply committed to multilateralism, maritime stability, the protection of civilians and children, and to conflict prevention—a strong and trusted partnership between the Council and the Secretary-General is indispensable.

The next Secretary-General must help steer the international community through turbulent seas. But it is this Council that must provide the wind. The Charter guides us; peace unites us. Greece will remain a steadfast partner in this collective endeavour.

I thank you.