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Security Council Briefing on the situation in the Central African region and the activities of UNOCA 11 December 2025

Greece's Statement delivered
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Thank you Mr. President.

I would like to thank our briefers today, the SRSG for Central Africa and Head of UNOCA Mr. Abarry, as well as Ms. Huré of the Norwegian Refugee Council. I would also like to welcome the representative of Equatorial Guinea at this meeting.

Mr. President,

Allow me to emphasize the following points:

First, Greece commends the Special Representative and UNOCA for their continuous efforts in the Central Africa sub-region to support the promotion of political dialogue and inclusive governance, the strengthening of electoral institutions, the restoration of constitutional order and democracy, judicial independence, regional preventive diplomacy and sustainable development. We welcome signs of progress and we urge all actors to remain engaged on this path.

At the same time, we share the concerns of the Secretary General about the narrowing of political and civic space and restrictions imposed on civil and political rights, in parts of the region. In this context, enhancing the inclusion and the representation of women and youth in public policies are of utmost importance. We urge the SRSG to continue his engagement with women civil society leaders and his efforts to strengthen the role and to ensure the full, equal, meaningful and safe participation of women and youth in all political processes.

Second, we are deeply concerned about the worsening security and humanitarian conditions in parts of the region, caused by armed conflicts, terrorist attacks, large scale displacements and inter-communal violence.

We are particularly alarmed by the deteriorating security conditions in South Kivu, caused by the continuing advance of the M23 and the potential spill over of the conflict, that could trigger a regional crisis.

Third, the sub-region of Central Africa continues to experience the effects of adverse climate and ecological changes, and natural disasters with wide-ranging implications for regional stability. Extreme climate phenomena, resulting in deadly and destructive floods, drought, desertification and land degradation, food and water insecurity, impact the economy, security and stability of the sub-region. Unfortunately, women and girls are paying the heaviest price of conflicts and natural disasters.

We, therefore, welcome the recent initiatives of UNOCA, conducted alongside other regional actors to address the impacts of climate change and to underscore the need for comprehensive conflict-sensitive and climate-responsive approaches in order to strengthen resilience and sustainability.

Madame President,

In concluding, we stress that pluralism, respect for fundamental freedoms, and the constructive engagement of all political parties in the region towards credible democratic processes are key for sustaining peace in the Central Africa sub-region.

In this vein, we encourage the SRSG and UNOCA to continue the collaboration with the AU, ECCAS, ECOWAS, Lake Chad Basin Commission, Gulf of Guinea Commission and other relevant stakeholders in order to effectively address challenges to peace, security and development of the region.

I thank you.