



PERMANENT MISSION OF GREECE
TO THE UNITED NATIONS



**Security Council Briefing on the situation concerning the
Democratic Republic of the Congo (MONUSCO)
26 March 2026**

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

Thank you, Mr. President.

And I would also like to thank you for chairing this meeting and for your efforts to promote peace in eastern DRC. I would like to also thank Deputy Special Representative, Van de Perre, for her insightful briefing and for her leadership of MONUSCO in recent months.

Mr. President,

Nearly one year after the unanimous adoption of Resolution 2773 and this Council's call for an immediate end to the conflict in eastern DRC, we meet at a moment marked by both progress and persistent risks.

I would like to make the following points:

First, Resolution 2773 must be implemented immediately, fully and unconditionally. AFC/M23 must cease hostilities at once, and withdraw from Goma, Bukavu and all other areas under its control. The airports of Goma and Kavumu must reopen without delay. Rwanda Defense Forces must cease all support to the AFC/M23 and withdraw immediately and unconditionally from the territory of the Democratic Republic of the Congo.

All illegitimate parallel administrations must be dismantled, and state authority restored throughout the country. Greece reaffirms its steadfast support for the independence, sovereignty, unity and territorial integrity of the DRC.

Second, we are deeply concerned by the intensified use of drone strikes by the parties to the conflict which have caused civilian casualties since the beginning of the year.

We strongly condemn the recent drone strikes in Goma that killed a UNICEF staff member and other civilians. We reiterate our strong commitment to the safety and security of the UN humanitarian personnel and peacekeepers. Attacks against UN personnel constitute a blatant violation of International Law and must be fully investigated. Those responsible must be held accountable.

Third, Mr. President, we welcome all efforts aimed at securing a ceasefire and advancing a sustainable peace, stability and reconciliation in eastern DRC. We commend the US, Qatar, the African Union and Angola for their important mediation efforts. The momentum generated by the Washington Accords must be preserved. All parties must deescalate immediately, honor the commitments they have undertaken under the various peace processes and accelerate their implementation.

Fourth, we remain deeply alarmed by the acute humanitarian crisis and the grave consequences of the conflict which have further increased the number of internally displaced persons, as we have heard also by the Deputy Special Representative today. All parties must respect international humanitarian law, ensure safe, rapid, and unhindered humanitarian access and facilitate humanitarian flights.

We are particularly appalled by the continuing grave human rights violations and abuses committed against women and children, including the large-scale recruitment and use of children, abductions, killings and maiming, and shocking levels of conflict-related sexual violence. All perpetrators must be brought to justice.

Finally, all restrictions on MONUSCO's freedom of movement must be lifted. Resolutions 2773 and 2808 reaffirm the Council's full support for MONUSCO, whose role remains critical in protecting civilians, responding to urgent humanitarian needs and supporting the implementation of peace processes.

We commend MONUSCO for its continued efforts in support of a ceasefire. We also welcome the joint MONUSCO - ICGLR exploratory mission to Uvira last month, to assess of the conditions for the deployment of the Expanded Joint Verification Mechanism. We reaffirm our strong commitment to the safety and security of MONUSCO personnel.

In conclusion, Mr. President,

Greece stands ready to support any further engagement by this Council, as necessary, towards sustainable peace, stability and development in the DRC and the wider region.

I thank you.