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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)
15 April 2026**

Greece's Statement delivered
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Thank you Madame President.

I would like to start by thanking Special Envoy Xia and Executive Director of UN Women, Bahous for their insightful briefings. I would also like to welcome the participation of the representatives of Angola and Rwanda in today's meeting.

Madame President, I would like to make the following points:

First, despite continuous collective international and regional efforts and considerable achievements, the armed conflict in the DRC continues. We are alarmed by the continuous violence in eastern DRC and broader regional escalations. We reiterate that Resolution 2773 must be implemented immediately, fully and unconditionally. The momentum generated by the Washington Peace Accords for Peace and Prosperity must be preserved.

We welcome all efforts aimed at securing a ceasefire and advancing sustainable peace, stability and reconciliation in eastern DRC. We commend the United States, Qatar, the African Union and Angola for their important mediation efforts. All parties must de-escalate immediately, honor the commitments they have undertaken under the various peace processes, and accelerate their implementation.

AFC/M23 must immediately cease hostilities and withdraw all troops from Goma, Bukavu and all other areas under its control. The airports of Goma and Kavumu must reopen without delay. All restrictions on MONUSCO's freedom of movement must be lifted.

Second, we are deeply concerned about the exacerbation of an already dire humanitarian situation. The continuous M23 offensive in eastern DRC has led to a further and mounting increase of IDPs in the Great Lakes Region. We are particularly alarmed by the almost 6,5 million internally displaced persons recorded as of last February, with 3,3 million IDPs in North and South Kivu and almost 1 million in Ituri alone.

Food insecurity is affecting already more than 2 million people in Uganda and is projected to affect more than 26 million people in the DRC and another million in Burundi over the first semester of 2026. Recurring communicable diseases and natural disasters, triggered by climate change, remain also major challenges for the Region.

We strongly condemn all human rights violations and abuses in the countries of the Region, as reported by the Secretary General. 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 conflict-related sexual violence. All perpetrators of human rights violation must be brought to justice.

Third, we welcome the Special Envoy's recent engagements with the Special Representative of the SG for CAAC and the Special Adviser on the Prevention of Genocide.

We also welcome the support of his Office to non-military responses through the Contact and Coordination Group (CCG) and the first regional Standard Operating Procedure (SOP) framework document for cooperation on the repatriation of foreign combatants across the Great Lakes region.

We stress on the need of cross border coordination, with transparency and accountability, for an orderly, safe, voluntary, verified, dignified and predictable extraction and repatriation of ex combatants.

We believe in the meaningful and active participation of women and youth in the political and peace processes as key element for sustainable peace in the Great Lakes Region and in their pivotal role for the success of Disarmament Demobilization and Reintegration (DDR).

In conclusion, Madame President,

We concur with the Secretary General on his assessment that building trust and confidence between the parties and ensuring inclusivity remain essential for the collaboration of all the countries of the Great Lakes Region towards sustainable lasting peace, stability and prosperity.

Greece will continue to engage constructively with all partners in the Security Council as well as bilaterally towards this end.

I thank you.