



PERMANENT MISSION OF GREECE
TO THE UNITED NATIONS



**Security Council briefing on South Sudan and UNMISS
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Greece's Statement delivered
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Thank you, Madame President.

And let me start by paying tribute to the late Nicholas Haysom, former SRSG for South Sudan, for his contribution to the United Nations, and I would also like to welcome Mrs. Gbeho in her new capacity as the Secretary-General's Special Representative for South Sudan and Head of UNMISS and thank her for her briefing. We are confident that her leadership will further strengthen the Mission's efforts at this critical juncture. I would also like to thank USG Fletcher for his informative briefing.

Greece remains deeply concerned by the continued deterioration of the political, security and humanitarian situation in South Sudan, as outlined also in the Secretary-General's latest report.

Madame President, allow me to highlight three key points.

First, the political situation remains fragile and increasingly concerning. The SG's report points to continuing unilateral actions, weakening of inclusive governance, and a persistent lack of political will to engage in meaningful dialogue. These developments risk undermining the Revitalized Peace Agreement, which remains the cornerstone of the transition.

At the same time, preparations for elections - scheduled for December 2026 - are progressing in an environment marked by limited political space, insufficient resources and growing mistrust among the parties. Without genuine inclusivity, legal clarity and adequate security conditions the prospects for credible and peaceful elections remain uncertain.

We remain also concerned about the continued detention of senior political figures including Vice President Riek Machar. Such actions risk further exacerbating tensions and undermining trust among the parties.

Second, we are alarmed by the sharp deterioration of the security situation, particularly in Jonglei state. Intensified fighting, including the use of heavy weapons and aerial bombardments have resulted in significant civilian casualties, widespread displacement and increased intercommunal violence. Reports of targeted attacks against civilians, including women and children, as well as incidents of conflict-related sexual violence, are deeply disturbing. The scale and gravity of these violations underscore the urgent need for all parties to uphold international humanitarian and human rights law and to ensure accountability for perpetrators.

We are equally concerned by the increasing restrictions on UNMISS operations, including movement constraints and incidents affecting the safety of UN personnel. We call for the lifting of all restrictions to UNMISS and its operations. Such actions hinder the mission's ability to effectively implement its mandate particularly in the protection of civilians.

Third, the humanitarian situation continues to deteriorate at an alarming rate. Nearly 10 million people are projected to require humanitarian assistance, driven by ongoing conflict, displacement, disease outbreaks and climate-related shocks. Access constraints, attacks on humanitarian workers, and severe funding gaps further compound the crisis.

We are particularly concerned by reports of looting of humanitarian supplies, destruction of health facilities, and continued obstruction of aid delivery. These developments not only exacerbate human suffering but also undermine efforts to stabilize the country. In this context, we stress that humanitarian assistance, while essential, cannot substitute for a political solution.

Let me also express, Madame President, our strong support for UNMISS and its mandate. Despite significant resource constraints and a reduced operational footprint, the Mission continues to play a vital role in protecting civilians, supporting dialogue and facilitating humanitarian assistance. In view of the forthcoming renewal of its mandate on April 29th, it is essential that all parties fully cooperate with the Mission and uphold their obligations under the Status of Forces Agreement.

In conclusion, Madame President,

There is no military solution to the conflict. Greece reaffirms its strong commitment to the sovereignty, unity and territorial integrity of South Sudan. We underline that a Sudanese-owned, inclusive and credible political process remains the only viable path towards lasting peace and stability.

We call on all South Sudanese stakeholders to demonstrate political will, cease hostilities, and re-engage in meaningful dialogue, placing the interests of South Sudanese people at the center of their efforts.

I thank you.

