



PERMANENT MISSION OF GREECE
TO THE UNITED NATIONS



**Security Council Briefing
on Protection of civilians in armed conflict (UNSCR 2730)
8 April 2026**

Greece's Remarks delivered
by H.E. Ambassador Aglaia Balta,
Permanent Representative of Greece to the United Nations, New York

Thank you, Mr. President,

I would like to start by thanking USG Tom Fletcher, USG Gilles Michaud and the Permanent Observer of ICRC, Ms. Elyse Nicole Mosquini for their comprehensive and insightful briefings.

I would like also to welcome the representative of Switzerland to this meeting.

Greece welcomes the 2nd annual briefing on the implementation of Resolution 2730 in a time of protracted and complex armed conflicts with the deadliest impact ever recorded on the safety and security of humanitarian workers.

We pay tribute to the fallen, the humanitarian and UN and associated personnel, including national and locally recruited personnel, who have lost their lives trying to save others. I would also like to express our sincere appreciation and debt to all those who, risking their lives, continue to provide those in need, help, relief and hope.

27 years ago, in 1999, briefing the Security Council, former ICRC President, Cornelio Sommaruga, spoke of 20 active conflicts. Today, more than 130 conflicts are recorded by ICRC worldwide, in parts of Africa, the Middle East, Europe, Asia, and Latin America. In 2025, as was reported by USG Fletcher, 326 humanitarian and UN and associated personnel lost their lives in conflicts across the world.

Against this alarming backdrop, allow me to underline the following points:

First, we strongly condemn the increased attacks against humanitarian and UN and associated personnel, including national and locally recruited personnel. All parties to armed conflicts must comply with their obligations under international humanitarian law. This compliance includes the respect for the safety and security of the aforementioned personnel, and for safe and effective humanitarian operations, including the facilitation of safe, rapid and unhindered passage of humanitarian assistance.

Let's not forget, Gaza remains by far the deadliest place for humanitarian workers. Sudan, South Sudan. Only last week, 3 humanitarian workers were killed in Lebanon.

Secondly, accountability must become the norm, not the exception. Attacks against humanitarian workers must not go unpunished. Concerned State authorities must conduct full, transparent and effective investigations into allegations of attacks against humanitarian workers, and to prosecute those responsible. We also call on the Secretary-General, as per Resolution 2730, to provide updates through regular reporting, as well as swiftly report to the Council on an ad hoc basis, when widespread attacks and violations occur against humanitarian personnel, UN and associated personnel.

Thirdly, the confidence of civilians in humanitarian action must be enhanced. Greece stresses the need to confront the threat of misinformation, disinformation and hate speech against humanitarian and United Nations organizations, and to protect civilians from false narratives that threaten their access to humanitarian assistance. Digital innovation can be a valuable tool in the effort to enable security risk management and respond to risks.

Fourthly, humanitarian operations in high-risk contexts must be safeguarded. Peacekeeping and political missions must be enabled to effectively reach people in need. The Security Council must ensure that operational and security capacities on the ground are strengthened by incorporating safety and security requirements into all the mandates it issues.

Mr. President,

It is our firm conviction that the challenge does not lie in the lack of appropriate legal framework but in the increasing lack of respect for humanitarian law and its principles. In this regard, Greece joined the Global Initiative to Galvanize Political Commitment to International Humanitarian Law, launched by the ICRC to address the erosion of respect for international humanitarian law, and endorsed the Declaration for the Protection of Humanitarian Personnel, initiated by Australia.

Resolution 2730 sends a powerful message of the moral imperative to reverse the terrifying trend of mounting humanitarian workers' casualties, and of the need to have the operational agility to protect them.

We, as members of the Security Council, have to ensure that humanitarian workers fulfill their duty in safety and dignity and with the protection they deserve.

I thank you.