



PERMANENT MISSION OF GREECE
TO THE UNITED NATIONS



**Security Council meeting on Sudan/South Sudan (Abyei - UNISFA)
7 May 2026**

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

Thank you, Mr. President,

At the outset, we would like to congratulate China for assuming the Presidency of the Council for the month of May, and to thank Bahrain for a successful stewardship of the Council in April.

We thank Assistant Secretary-General Martha Pobee and Special Envoy Guang Cong for their briefings. We also welcome the Special Envoy's recent visit to Abyei and his continued engagement with the parties, the African Union and IGAD, at a time when renewed political momentum is urgently needed.

Mr. President,

We would like to highlight the following points.

First, we remain deeply concerned by the deteriorating security situation in Abyei. The rise in violent incidents, intercommunal clashes, criminal activity, and the presence of unauthorized armed actors point to an increasingly fragile and volatile environment. The proliferation of weapons and the continued targeting of civilians further aggravate instability.

We strongly condemn attacks against UN personnel. Their safety and security must be guaranteed at all times and those responsible must be held accountable.

In this context, Greece reiterates its strong support for UNISFA and pays tribute to all peacekeepers serving under extremely challenging conditions. We also underline the need to ensure the safety and freedom of movement of humanitarian personnel. All parties must guarantee safe, rapid and unhindered humanitarian access and fully respect their obligations under international humanitarian law.

Second, renewed political engagement between Sudan and South Sudan is urgently needed. The lack of progress in convening key bilateral mechanisms is deeply concerning. Despite reiterated commitments by both parties, meaningful engagement has remained limited. This is partly due to the broader conflict in Sudan and internal challenges in South Sudan, which continue to constrain the reactivation of agreed frameworks. The continued suspension of the Joint Political and Security Mechanism and the Abyei Joint Oversight Committee has stalled the implementation of existing arrangements and delayed progress on the final status of Abyei.

We call on both parties to resume dialogue without delay, restore the functioning of agreed mechanisms, and engage constructively with regional and international partners. Only through sustained political will and structured engagement can progress be achieved toward resolving outstanding issues, including the final status of Abyei.

In this regard, we emphasize the importance of preserving the demilitarized status of Abyei and addressing broader humanitarian and governance challenges, as the continued presence of unauthorized forces undermines stability and violates existing agreements.

My third point, Mr. President,

The humanitarian situation remains alarming, with continued displacement, food insecurity, and limited access to essential services placing severe pressure on vulnerable populations. Greece is particularly concerned about the situation of children in Abyei. Reports of grave violations, including conflict-related sexual violence against minors, as well as the broader impact of insecurity on access to education, healthcare, and protection, are deeply troubling. The disruption of schooling, combined with the exposure of children to violence and displacement, risks creating long-term consequences for an entire generation.

We therefore call on all parties to fully respect international humanitarian and human rights law, to ensure the protection of children, and to facilitate safe access to education and essential services. The international community must also strengthen support for child protection mechanisms on the ground. We also encourage continued support for women and youth-led peacebuilding initiatives, which remain indispensable for local conflict prevention and social cohesion.

In conclusion, Mr. President,

While UNISFA continues to play an indispensable role in supporting stability and the protection of civilians, lasting progress ultimately depends on the sustained political commitment of the parties.

Greece remains committed to supporting efforts toward lasting peace, stability, and security in Abyei.

I thank you.

