



PERMANENT MISSION OF GREECE  
TO THE UNITED NATIONS



**Security Council Open Debate on the  
Reports of the Secretary-General on the Sudan and South Sudan  
Friday 26 June 2026**

Greece's Statement delivered  
by H.E. Ms. Aglaia Balta  
Permanent Representative of Greece to the United Nations

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Thank you, Madam President.

I also thank Under-Secretary General Rosemary DiCarlo and UNICEF Deputy Executive Director Hannah Suleiman. Let me also thank the United Kingdom for its sustained efforts, including the recent adoption of the Security Council Press Statement. At this critical juncture, it is essential that the Council continues to speak with one voice in support of de-escalation, the protection of civilians, and unhindered humanitarian access.

Madam President,

Allow me to highlight three key points:

**First**, on the security dimension. Greece remains deeply concerned by the rapidly deteriorating situation in Sudan, in particular the alarming escalation of violence in and around El Obeid, North Kordofan. Reports of intensified attacks and the deployment of significant RSF reinforcements around the city raise serious concerns about the risk of a broader offensive and further destabilization.

We strongly condemn all and any attacks against civilians and civilian infrastructure and remain deeply concerned by any actions that continue to undermine Sudan's prospects for peace. We urge for immediate de-escalation in the vicinity of El-Obeid, in order to avoid further deterioration of the humanitarian situation and the risk of civilian casualties. There can be no military solution to this conflict. Only a genuine negotiated political process can bring lasting peace and stability to Sudan and ensure the protection of civilians and unhindered humanitarian access to non-combatants.

**Second**, on the humanitarian dimension, the situation remains catastrophic. Civilians continue to bear the heaviest burden of this conflict, facing widespread displacement, acute food insecurity, and severely limited access to basic services. We are particularly alarmed by developments in El Obeid, a city of more than 563,000 residents that currently hosts over 105,000 displaced persons. Continued attacks, including reported drone

strikes, have caused civilian casualties and damaged critical civilian infrastructure: hospitals, schools, markets, and essential water and electricity facilities. The recent blackout, following strikes on key infrastructure, has further disrupted water supply and essential services, compounding humanitarian suffering. As a critical humanitarian hub for the wider Kordofan region, any disruption to access in El Obeid risks devastating consequences far beyond the city itself.

We are especially concerned about women and children, who remain among the most vulnerable, facing displacement, hunger, lack of education, and heightened exposure to violence. This concern is particularly acute in Kordofan, where children continue to bear the devastating consequences of the conflict. According to UNICEF, in the first three months of 2026 alone, at least 245 children were killed or maimed across Sudan, with some of the highest child casualty rates recorded in the Kordofan states.

Greece once again strongly condemns all attacks against civilians and humanitarian personnel and calls for safe, rapid, unhindered, and sustained humanitarian access. We reiterate that all perpetrators of crimes against civilians and war crimes must be held accountable and brought to justice.

**Third**, on the political aspect, Greece reiterates its unwavering support for the sovereignty, independence, unity, and territorial integrity of Sudan. We firmly oppose any attempts to create parallel governance structures that risk further fragmenting the country. The future of Sudan must be determined through an inclusive Sudanese-led political process, free from violence and coercion.

In this regard, we reiterate our support for the efforts of the Quintet, whose sustained diplomatic engagement has played an important role in maintaining international attention and fostering coordination among key stakeholders. We also commend the Quad, the Personal Envoy of the Secretary-General for Sudan Mr. Pekka Haavisto and Senior Advisor to the US President on Arab and Middle Eastern Affairs Mr. Massad Boulos, for the constructive and timely engagement in promoting regional dialogue and supporting conditions conducive to de-escalation. We repeat our call on all parties to exercise maximum restraint, engage meaningfully in efforts to reduce tensions, and recommit to dialogue. Regional and international actors with influence over the parties must exercise that influence responsibly and urgently to support a return to negotiations.

Madam President,

At this critical juncture, the Security Council must remain united and actively engaged. Greece stands ready to work constructively with all Council members in support of immediate de-escalation, the protection of civilians, unhindered humanitarian access, and a credible political pathway towards a sustainable peace. The people of Sudan cannot afford further delay.

I thank you.