



PERMANENT MISSION OF GREECE
TO THE UNITED NATIONS



**Security Council Open Debate on the
situation concerning the Democratic Republic of the Congo (MONUSCO)
Friday 26 June 2026**

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

Thank you, Madame President.

I wish to congratulate the Special Representative Mr. Swan for assuming the leadership of MONUSCO and to thank him for his insightful briefing.

Madame President,

At the outset, we observe that, despite recent collective international and regional efforts and considerable achievements, the situation in the Democratic Republic of the Congo remains critical.

I would like to make the following points:

First, we reiterate that Resolutions 2773 and 2808 must be implemented immediately, fully and unconditionally. AFC/M23 must cease hostilities at once and withdraw from Goma, Bukavu and all other areas under its control. All illegitimate parallel administrations must be dismantled, and State authority must be restored throughout the country. The airports of Goma and Kavumu must reopen without delay and all restrictions on MONUSCO's freedom of movement must be lifted. Rwanda Defence Forces (RDF) must cease all support to AFC/M23 and withdraw immediately and unconditionally from the territory of the Democratic Republic of the Congo. All elements of the FDLR need to be also neutralized as a matter of urgency. The illicit exploitation and trafficking of critical minerals, which fuel the conflict, must stop and transparency and traceability must be strengthened. Greece reaffirms its unwavering support for the independence, sovereignty, unity and territorial integrity of the DRC.

Second, 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 mediation efforts. We welcome the recent dialogue and engagements between the parties under the auspices of the Doha framework. Progress made towards the signing of the Protocol on humanitarian access and judicial protection must be sustained. The momentum generated by the Washington Peace

Accords for Peace and Prosperity must be preserved. All parties must de-escalate immediately, honour the commitments they have undertaken under the various peace processes, and accelerate their implementation. We equally commend all efforts towards a sincere national political dialogue aimed at peace, stability and national cohesion in the Democratic Republic of the Congo.

Third, amidst the ongoing Ebola virus disease outbreak, we remain deeply alarmed by the severe and complex humanitarian situation, the continuous violence in eastern DRC and the large number of internally displaced persons. We are particularly concerned about the increased use of drones, aerial bombardments and heavy artillery in densely populated areas across both Kivus. All parties must respect international humanitarian law, ensure safe, rapid and unhindered humanitarian access, and facilitate humanitarian flights. We are appalled by the continuing grave human rights violations and abuses committed against women and children, notably the large-scale recruitment and use of children, abductions, killings and maiming, and shocking levels of conflict-related sexual violence. We deeply regret that in recent months alone were documented 351 grave violations, affecting 258 children, including 71 girls and 187 boys, with 231 cases in North Kivu and 120 in Ituri. All perpetrators must be brought to justice.

Finally, Resolutions 2773 and 2808 reaffirm the Council's full support for MONUSCO, whose role remains critical in the Protection of Civilians, responding to urgent humanitarian needs and supporting the implementation of the Doha and Washington peace processes and the African Union-led mediation. We reaffirm our strong commitment to the safety and security of MONUSCO personnel. We commend MONUSCO for its continued efforts in support of a permanent ceasefire, notably the operationalization of the Enhanced Joint Verification Mechanism Plus (EJVM+) alongside the ICGLR. We support the phased, adaptive, scalable and conditions-based approach to MONUSCO's role in support of the implementation of the Ceasefire Oversight and Verification Mechanism both in North and South Kivu, matched with the appropriate means and capabilities.

Madame President,

Greece stands ready to support any further engagement by this Council, as necessary, towards sustainable peace, stability and development in the DRC and the wider region.

I thank you