



PERMANENT MISSION OF GREECE
TO THE UNITED NATIONS



**Security Council Briefing on the situation in Afghanistan (UNAMA)
8 June 2026**

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

Madam President,

I would like to thank Deputy Special Representative Georgette Gagnon, OCHA Director Edem Wosornu and Ms. Metra Mehran for their remarks and welcome the presence of Afghanistan in the meeting.

Madam President,

While Afghanistan is experiencing a period of elusive calm, deep-seated political, economic, social and environmental challenges reveal the fragile nature of this reality. The human rights situation continues to deteriorate, particularly for women and girls, as restrictive measures are tightened instead of being reversed.

I would like to make the following three points today:

First, restrictions on the human rights and fundamental freedoms of women and girls have reached, as we have heard today by our briefers,

unprecedented levels, preventing their effective participation in public and private life.

For the fifth consecutive year, girls remain banned from secondary and higher education. Since last September, women UN personnel have been barred from their offices, severely impacting the delivery of humanitarian assistance and healthcare to women across the country. This systemic regression is further exacerbated by the recent decree on “criminal rules of courts” that legitimizes violence against women and child marriage.

Moreover, the ongoing erosion of the freedom of expression and media freedom, as evidenced by the suspension of media outlets and organizations, is deeply alarming. We urge the Taliban to immediately lift these restrictions and oppressive measures, restore full access to education for girls and permit Afghan women UN personnel to return to their workplaces.

We call upon the Taliban to honor Afghanistan’s international commitments, particularly the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women and we affirm our support for all means of accountability. Additionally, we reiterate the critical importance of free, independent and pluralistic media.

Second, we reaffirm our principled position that the territory of Afghanistan must never serve as a safe haven for terrorism and we call on the Taliban to take all necessary measures to combat terrorist activities, including those targeting neighboring countries.

We remain concerned by the cross-border clashes between the Taliban and Pakistani security forces over the past months that resulted in numerous civilian casualties, the destruction of civilian infrastructure and disruptions to the delivery of humanitarian assistance due to border closures. We welcome the reduction in tension over recent weeks and all mediation efforts by regional countries, most recently by China.

We reiterate our call for de-escalation, a ceasefire and a peaceful resolution of disputes through dialogue and diplomacy. We underline the importance of adherence to international law, including international humanitarian law and the protection of civilians.

The unhindered delivery of humanitarian assistance through secure and predictable border crossings is essential, especially as Afghanistan grapples with unprecedented levels of food insecurity and child malnutrition, extreme environmental conditions and an influx of returnees.

Third, Greece reiterates its full support for UNAMA and its indispensable role in facilitating political dialogue in Afghanistan, coordinating the delivery of humanitarian assistance and monitoring the human rights situation. We therefore support the upcoming renewal of UNAMA's mandate in its entirety and call for its swift conclusion.

In parallel, we urge the Taliban to establish the long-awaited mechanism for engagement with UNAMA's comprehensive approach. The Doha process remains an important framework for the reintegration of Afghanistan into the international community, provided that the Taliban abide by their international obligations regarding human rights, inclusive governance and counter-terrorism.

Madam President,

The Afghan people cannot afford continued isolation from the international community. The time has come for the Taliban to recognize this reality and engage meaningfully with UNAMA and relevant national and international stakeholders.

I thank you.