



PERMANENT MISSION OF GREECE
TO THE UNITED NATIONS



**Security Council Briefing on the situation in Central Africa and the
activities of UNOCA
9 June 2026**

Greece's Statement delivered by
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Thank you Madame President.

I would like to thank ASG for Africa Ms Pobee for her insightful briefing and to welcome the appointment of Mr. Mohamed Souef as new SRSG for Central Africa and Head of UNOCA.

Madame President,

I would like make the following points:

First, Greece commends UNOCA for the good offices and its continuous efforts in the Central Africa sub-region to support the promotion of political dialogue, inclusive governance, mediation, regional preventive diplomacy and sustainable development. We welcome the progress and conclusion of important political transitions in several countries of the sub-region.

Despite the positive trends, we share the concerns of the Secretary General about constrained political and civic space, the restrictions imposed on civil and political rights and the freedom of expression and the urgent need to address disinformation, incitement and hate speech in parts of the region. We urge the new SRSG to continue the engagement of UNOCA with civil society, particularly women civil society leaders in order to ensure the full, equal, meaningful and safe participation of women and youth in all political processes.

Second, we are particularly alarmed by the worsening security dynamics and the fragile humanitarian conditions in Central Africa, caused by protracted conflicts, inter-communal violence over land and water access, food insecurity, the recent Ebola epidemic in the Democratic Republic of the Congo and climate shocks. These threats lead to further large scale displacements and increase the number of people in need of urgent humanitarian assistance, especially in Chad, Cameroon and the DRC.

Third, we are deeply concerned about the effects of climate change and natural disasters on the regional stability in Central Africa, resulting in food and water insecurity, impacting the local rural economy and the security and stability of the sub-region. Unfortunately, women and girls are paying the heaviest price of conflicts and natural disasters.

We therefore welcome the recent initiatives of UNOCA, partnered with other regional actors, to address the impacts of climate change and to underscore the need for capacity building, regional cooperation, community resilience, sustainability and climate finance mobilization.

Fourth, on maritime security, despite the downward trend of the frequency of maritime incidents in the Gulf of Guinea, we note with great concern the security challenges caused by various cases of piracy and kidnappings at the beginning of the year. We welcome all regional efforts promoting maritime safety and security and we commend UNOCA's commitment to support the implementation of the Yaounde' Architecture.

Madame President,

In conclusion, we encourage the new SRSG and UNOCA to continue their support and collaboration with AU, ECCAS, ECOWAS, Lake Chad Basin Commission, Gulf of Guinea Commission and other relevant stakeholders, in order to effectively address challenges to peace, security and development of the region.

I thank you.