



PERMANENT MISSION OF GREECE
TO THE UNITED NATIONS



**Security Council Open Debate on “Women and Peace and Security”
Peace is decided with women: Emerging from conflict by enhancing their participation
17 June 2026**

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

Gracias Señora Presidenta, Distinguida Ministra de Relaciones Exteriores de Colombia.

Deseo darle la bienvenida a este Consejo en el día de hoy y agradecer a Colombia la convocatoria de este oportuno debate abierto.

Cabe destacar que el proceso de paz en Colombia sirve de modelo para la resolución de conflictos internacionales, al haber alcanzado niveles sin precedentes de representación de las mujeres y una verdadera transversalización del enfoque de género.

I would like also to thank the Executive Director of UN Women, Ms Sima Sami Bahous for her briefing and unwavering commitment, as well as the representatives of civil society, Ms. Leymah Gbowee and Ms. Kaavya Asoka, for their powerful messages and for paving the way for women.

Colleagues,

In October, we commemorated the 25th anniversary of the landmark Resolution 1325 on Women and Peace and Security.

As we look ahead to the next quarter-century of the Agenda's implementation, it is vital that we build upon lessons learned, while replicating best practices and success stories.

I would like to make three points today:

First, sustainable peace and security are unattainable without the full, equal, meaningful and safe participation of women. It is well-established that peace processes yield higher implementation rates and last longer when women are actively engaged.

As conflict affects demographics differently, men constitute the majority of frontline casualties, while women bear the brunt of its secondary consequences.

Displacement, conflict-related sexual violence, food insecurity, and the collapse of healthcare, education, and social infrastructures define the complex realities women and girls must navigate during and after conflict.

To exclude women from peace processes is to exclude their valuable insights into addressing the structural causes of conflict and ensuring post-conflict recovery and peacebuilding. In this regard, Greece fully endorses the Secretary-General's call for women to constitute at least 30% of participants in peace processes. In parallel, gender provisions should be integrated into all peace agreements and ceasefire frameworks.

Second, women's participation should be substantive rather than symbolic or driven solely by compliance with quotas. Women should be granted genuine decision-making authority, ensuring they have a voice and not merely a seat at the table.

Participation should also be inclusive of all women: peacebuilders, negotiators, mediators, local and indigenous women and civil society representatives.

Crucially, the protection of women leaders remains of paramount importance, as they frequently face threats, intimidation, and reprisals for their vital work.

Third, the Colombian peace process has demonstrated how this meaningful participation framework can be effectively operationalized. Women in Colombia not only participated actively in peace negotiations, but also ensured that gender provisions were mainstreamed throughout the peace agreement.

Women comprised approximately 20% of the government's negotiating team and 43% of the FARC delegates, the highest share of female representation in modern peacebuilding history.

In stark contrast to the historic breakthroughs in Colombia, the situation in Afghanistan represents one of the most severe rollbacks of women's meaningful participation in recent history. Following the 2021 Taliban takeover, the fragile gains achieved by women in Afghan civil society and governance were rapidly dismantled.

An aspiring democracy was replaced by a regime that erases women from public and private life, barring them from secondary education, employment, and political dialogue.

Madame President,

Women's meaningful participation is the result of a whole-of-government approach and not an issue that can be addressed through stopgap measures.

In Greece, this objective is systematically mainstreamed through the Annual Action Plans of all Ministries. In this endeavour, our National Action Plan on Women, Peace and Security serves as an indispensable framework for translating the above-mentioned objectives into actionable and measurable commitments.

Sustainable peace cannot be realized without gender equality and the full empowerment of women and girls.

Greece reiterates its full support for the Executive Director of UN Women and reaffirms its commitment to working with her, and with fellow member states, to ensure that women's participation remains at the core of peacebuilding.

I thank you.