



PERMANENT MISSION OF GREECE
TO THE UNITED NATIONS



**Security Council Open Debate on Strengthening the Mechanisms
for Peaceful Settlement of Disputes - follow-up to SCR 2788
23 July 2026**

Greece's Statement delivered by
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Madame President,

I would like to thank your Excellency for convening the meeting.

I also thank the Secretary-General for his constructive recommendations in follow-up of resolution 2788, adopted unanimously last year under Pakistan's Presidency of the Council.

We meet at a moment when the international landscape is defined by mounting complexity and volatility. Simmering conflicts persist alongside emerging crises, geopolitical rivalries are hardening, and the erosion of trust between States is testing the very foundations of the multilateral order. The proliferation of armed groups and non-State actors, often operating across borders and outside the reach of traditional diplomacy, further complicates the peaceful resolution of disputes and requires renewed international attention.

In this environment, the peaceful settlement of disputes is not simply one tool among many — it is an indispensable safeguard against escalation, and a reminder that dialogue remains possible even where mistrust runs deep.

Promoting international peace and security through the peaceful settlement of disputes lies at the heart of the United Nations Charter and should remain a common priority for all Member States. The peaceful settlement of disputes is one of the fundamental principles upon which the United Nations were founded and remains the only viable path to sustaining peace.

Greece is a firm proponent of the international law and the UN Charter, under which Member States must refrain from the threat or use of force against one another.

In this regard, we would like to note the following:

Respect for international law is fundamental to safeguarding and strengthening peace and security. Greece, as credible and steadfast partner, as well as an anchor of stability in the region, remains committed to international law, including the international law of the sea as reflected in the UN Convention on the Law of the Sea.

Guided by the triptych “Dialogue, Diplomacy and Democracy”, the motto of our tenure as an elected member of the Security Council, we continue to spare no effort to promote the peaceful settlement of disputes in accordance with the UN Charter, making full use of the tools it provides and contributing actively to relevant initiatives.

Respect for international law and good neighbourly relations remain the foundation of this effort, and we call on all Member States to uphold these same principles as the only viable basis for peaceful coexistence, prosperity and stability.

The implementation of Security Council resolutions by Member States and international organizations is essential to maintaining international peace and security. When Security Council resolutions are disregarded, the very foundation of UN Charter is weakened and compromised. Resolutions, which all States are required to implement under Article 25 of the UN Charter, have significantly contributed to preventing conflicts and their escalation. They also provide the framework for resolving disputes and negotiating sustainable solutions in accordance with international law.

We strongly believe that we must reinvest in dialogue and cooperation in good faith. We should make full use of the UN's conflict prevention tools, strengthen preventive diplomacy, and promote dialogue between States, as reaffirmed in the Pact for the Future. The increasing complexity and persistence of global conflicts underscore the urgent need for the Security Council to advance the peaceful settlement of disputes under Chapter VI of the Charter, and encourage early recourse to the means of peaceful settlement of disputes set out in Article 33 of the Charter.

We support the Secretary-General's good offices and the work of special envoys and representatives in advancing diplomacy and de-escalation, including in long-standing situations where dialogue remains essential. Strengthening United Nations peacebuilding capacities is also instrumental for conflict prevention and sustainable peace. Preventive diplomacy should be grounded in international law, effective use of peaceful dispute settlement, good-faith dialogue and confidence-building measures.

The International Court of Justice, as the principal judicial organ of the United Nations, plays a vital role in the peaceful settlement of disputes and Member States should make fuller use of its jurisdiction, both contentious and advisory.

Mr. President,

Peaceful settlement of disputes is not a procedural option among many it is the operational core of Chapter VI and the clearest expression of the Charter's founding purpose. Given the growing number of disputes that continue to require our collective attention and engagement, we should reflect on the Organization's accomplishments and build on its solid values, reiterating our steadfast support for the UN Charter and international law.

In concluding,

Let us be reminded of the words of Secretary-General Dag Hammarskjöld, who first gave voice to the idea of preventive diplomacy: the true spirit of the United Nations lies not in reacting to crises, but in preventing them before they take hold.

I thank you.