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TO THE UNITED NATIONS



**Security Council Briefing on
Maintenance of international peace and security:
“Natural resources governance: The foundation of peace, security and
prosperity”
22 July 2026**

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

Thank you Madame President.

I welcome the presence of the Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Democratic Republic of the Congo and thank her for presiding over this meeting. I would also like to thank the Secretary-General, as well as the Director General of World Trade Organization for their insightful briefings.

Natural resources, when managed responsibly, are a powerful catalyst for state growth, underpinning natural revenues, infrastructure development and long-term economic development.

Allow me to emphasize the following points:

First, resources are both opportunity and risk. Critical minerals are the backbone of technological growth — but the race to secure them is colliding with geopolitical tension and climate pressure, raising the stakes for global security.

Second, illicit exploitation is no longer a peripheral issue — it's a driver of conflict. Opaque, unregulated extraction and trade don't just fuel instability; they finance it. Eastern DRC shows exactly how critical minerals can deepen displacement, human rights violations, and territorial disputes.

Third, Africa holds roughly a third of the world's mineral reserves — a genuine opportunity for growth, jobs, and infrastructure. But the opportunity only becomes real through strong governance, institutional capacity, and transparent benefit-sharing. Sourcing must work for the member states, not just for the markets at the end of the supply chain. Done right, governance turns resources from a source of instability into a foundation for peace and resilience.

Fourth, this Council has repeatedly flagged the trafficking of “conflict minerals” by armed groups and criminal networks. Traceability, sanctions implementation, and the findings of Panels of Experts already give us the tools. What's missing is the political will to use them.

Madame President,

Sustainable supply chains, local value addition, traceability, and respect for human rights are not add-ons — they are the conditions for durable peace and prosperity. Our task is clear: Turn resource wealth into a foundation for peace, before it becomes a fault line for conflict.

I thank you.