



PERMANENT MISSION OF GREECE  
TO THE UNITED NATIONS



**Security Council Open Debate on  
“Conflict-related sexual violence: honouring the promise of international law  
to survivors of conflict-related sexual violence”  
Wednesday 8 July 2026**

Greece's Statement delivered  
by H.E. Ms. Aglaia Balta  
Permanent Representative of Greece to the United Nations

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Madame la Présidente,

La Grèce vous remercie pour la convocation de ce débat, dont la pertinence s'impose avec une gravité particulière. La Grèce tient également à remercier la Représentante Spéciale du Secrétaire-General Mme Pramila Patten pour son exposé détaillé, ainsi que Mme Carine Jocelyn pour son intervention alarmante.

Nous réaffirmons notre soutien solide à la Représentante Spéciale du Secrétaire Général et à son mandat de publier des rapports factuels, détaillant les actes de violence sexuelle liés aux conflits dans le monde. C'est précisément cet ensemble des informations bien documenté et bien vérifié par les autorités compétentes des Nations Unies qui constitue un moyen essentiel pour indiquer ce phénomène horrible.

Colleagues,

The Secretary General's latest report presents a deeply concerning trajectory of conflict-related sexual violence which continues to be utilized as a tactic of war, torture, terrorism and political repression, both by state and non-state actors.

Greece condemns all forms of Conflict Related Sexual Violence in the strongest possible terms. We call on all parties to a conflict to immediately cease these acts and adopt time-bound measures and action plans to prevent and address CRSV, including by providing reparations to survivors and ensuring unhindered access for relevant UN monitoring mechanisms.

In this regard, we welcome the commitments undertaken by certain state and non-state actors and encourage their full implementation.

Madam President,

In view of the above, I would like to make three points today:

**First**, protection starts with compliance, not aspiration. International humanitarian law is binding, not advisory — all parties must respect it, along with fundamental human rights.

That means unhindered humanitarian access, safety for humanitarian workers, and protection of civilian infrastructure, full stop. But compliance alone does not heal anyone. Survivors need immediate, life-saving, gender-responsive care: sexual and reproductive healthcare, mental health and psychosocial support, and legal assistance — including for those in detention. And none of this is sustainable on goodwill alone. It requires predictable financing, including through the Multi-Partner Trust Fund on CRSV.

**Second**, survival is the floor, not the goal. Stigma, marginalization and exclusion don't end when the violence stops — they often outlast it, trapping survivors in cycles of poverty and renewed vulnerability. That is why recovery cannot be an afterthought to security response; it has to be built in from the start. And recovery is not only individual — it is political. There is no durable peace that excludes the people conflict harmed most. Survivors must have a seat at the table: full, equal, meaningful and safe participation in peace processes. This means peace agreements can no longer treat CRSV as a footnote. It must be written into the text — not mentioned as aspiration, but codified as obligation.

**Third**, the Council has tools it is not using to their full extent. Sexual violence should be a standalone designation criterion in every UN sanctions regime — not folded into other categories, but named for what it is. This matters most for repeat offenders — those who appear, year after year, in the Secretary-General's annex without consequence. Peace operations need mandates that reflect this seriousness, with gender expertise built in from the start. And when missions draw down, women's protection advisers cannot be the first cut — losing them at exactly the moment of transition creates the protection gaps survivors fall through. None of this substitutes for accountability. Only accountability guarantees non-repetition — and only accountability gives survivors what they are actually owed: justice.

In concluding Madam President, survivors are not asking for sympathy. They are asking for the protection International Law already promises them. Greece will keep working to deliver on that promise.

I thank you