



PERMANENT MISSION OF GREECE
TO THE UNITED NATIONS



**Security Council_Arria-Formula Meeting on the “Assessment of the normative gap regarding natural resources and peace: foundations and perspectives”
Monday 13 July 2026**

Greece’s Statement delivered
by H.E. Ms. Aglaia Balta
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Merci, Madame la Présidente.

Je tiens à féliciter et à remercier Son Excellence Thérèse Kayikwamba Wagner, Ministre des Affaires étrangères de la République Démocratique du Congo, d’avoir convoqué cette réunion, qui tombe à point nommé, sur le thème des ressources naturelles et de la paix. Je tiens également à remercier les intervenants d’aujourd’hui pour leurs exposés très instructifs. I will raise for points.

First, the race for critical minerals is not a distant, abstract trend – it is reshaping global peace and security in real time. It presents a complex mix of opportunities and risks for the global security landscape.

Undisrupted supplies of critical minerals are not simply desirable; they are the precondition for the clean energy transition the world has committed to, and for the technological advancements -such as renewable energy sources, Artificial Intelligence, defense systems- that depend on it. And when their extraction and trade are opaque and unregulated, they do not merely risk fueling existing conflicts or triggering new ones – they actively finance them.

Second, the illicit exploitation and trafficking of natural resources is not a peripheral concern. Wherever these occur, they exacerbate inequalities, insecurity and instability and threaten the sovereignty, independence, unity and territorial integrity of States.

Eastern DRC is the starkest evidence of this: critical minerals have become both the fuel and the currency of conflict, with consequences measured in displaced populations and human rights violations.

Third, Greece speaks to this not only as a Council member but as a European Union member state implementing the EU's own Critical Raw Material Act. The Act is built on a simple premise: supply security and sustainability are not competing objectives – they are the same objective. It sets binding 2030 benchmarks, embeds due diligence and human rights safeguards as a precondition rather than an afterthought, and -critically- extends Strategic Project status to partner countries that align with these standards. This is not a regulation for its own sake. It is a proof that resource governance can be a driver of investment and shared prosperity, not an obstacle to it.

As highlighted also by our briefers, harnessing these benefits requires strong governance, transparent and equitable benefit-sharing mechanisms, and a commitment to sustainable development practices.

Fourth, the Council has already spoken on this, clearly and recently – Resolutions 2773, 2808, and 2825 all confront the continued systematic illegal exploitation and trafficking of natural resources, especially of the so called “conflict minerals”, by armed groups and criminal networks, emphasizing the importance to enhance transparency and traceability in natural resources exports.

What is missing is not more diagnosis, but the political will to act on it. We say plainly: it is time to move from ad hoc responses to a coherent framework.

Madame la Ministre,

Pour conclure, plusieurs éléments sont essentiels: la mise en place de chaînes d'approvisionnement durables, la promotion des investissements en faveur du développement et des infrastructures, la garantie de la traçabilité et de la certification, ainsi que la mise en œuvre d'une production et d'une utilisation durables et responsables des ressources naturelles.

Ensemble, ces éléments peuvent renforcer la diversification économique, réduire au minimum les dommages environnementaux et les répercussions sur la santé, et garantir la prospérité, la paix et la sécurité aux niveaux national, régional et international.

Je vous remercie.