



PERMANENT MISSION OF GREECE
TO THE UNITED NATIONS



GREECE
UNITED NATIONS
SECURITY COUNCIL
2025-2026

**Security Council Arria-Formula Meeting on
Safeguarding Education in Sudan: Investing in Peace, Recovery and Stability
7 August 2026**

Greece's Statement delivered
by Mr. Ioannis Stamatekos

Deputy Permanent Representative of Greece to the United Nations, New York

Thank you, Chair.

We would like to thank Somalia for convening today's Arria-formula meeting, as well as the Democratic Republic of the Congo and Liberia for co-sponsoring this important initiative.

We also thank Her Excellency, Ms. Amina Mohamed, Deputy Secretary General for her remarks and the distinguished briefers for their valuable presentations.

Today's discussion is both timely and critical. Safeguarding education is not only a humanitarian imperative; it is also a prerequisite for sustainable peace, recovery and long-term stability. When schools are destroyed, occupied or forced to close, children lose opportunities for learning and communities lose one of the strongest foundations for resilience and lasting peace.

Nowhere is this more evident than in Sudan, where children continue to bear a disproportionate share of the conflict's devastating consequences.

According to the Secretary-General's latest report on Children and Armed Conflict, the United Nations verified 1,889 grave violations affecting 1,681 children in 2025. More than 1,300 children were killed or maimed, while others were subjected to sexual violence, abduction and recruitment by armed groups. Particularly alarming are credible reports of child recruitment through digital platforms, especially social media.

Attacks against schools increased by an alarming 57% compared to the previous reporting period, while schools continued to be used for military purposes.

More broadly, Sudan's education system has been severely disrupted. More than 17 million children have experienced serious disruption to their education, nearly eight million remain out of school, almost half of school buildings are no longer functional, and more than 7,000 schools are located in active conflict areas.

Without safe access to education, children become increasingly vulnerable to recruitment, exploitation, child labour, trafficking, forced displacement and conflict-related sexual violence. Protecting education is therefore both not only a humanitarian obligation but also an essential protection measure for children and an investment in Sudan's future.

We are also concerned about the detention of 212 children for their alleged association with parties to the conflict. Greece welcomes the recent release of 71 children by the Sudanese Armed Forces and echoes the Secretary-General's call for the immediate release of all children associated with armed groups.

At the same time, we welcome initiatives enabling students, including those in conflict-affected areas, to sit for the Sudan School Certificate examinations. Such efforts help preserve educational continuity, restore hope to families and reinforce the unity of Sudan's national education system.

Mr. Chair,

Protecting education must form an integral part of broader efforts to restore peace and stability in Sudan. Schools must never become military targets or be used for military purposes. Against this backdrop, we recall Security Council resolution 2601 (2021), which underscores the need to safeguard the right to education during armed conflict. Students, teachers and educational personnel must be protected, and all parties must fully comply with their obligations under international humanitarian law.

Education cannot be restored without safe and sustained humanitarian access. Greece therefore calls on all parties to cease attacks against civilians and civilian infrastructure and to ensure safe, rapid, sustained and unhindered humanitarian access, including across borders. Humanitarian personnel, medical workers, schools and hospitals must never be targeted and those responsible for violations of international humanitarian law and international human rights law must be held accountable.

In closing, Mr. Chair,

Greece reaffirms its commitment to protecting children, safeguarding education, strengthening accountability and supporting a peaceful, Sudanese-led political solution that allows every child to learn in safety and dignity.

I thank you.