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

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I thank the Special Representative of the Secretary-General and Head of the United Nations Interim Administration Mission in Kosovo (UNMIK), Peter Due, for his briefing. We express our deep appreciation for the work of UNMIK and its continued engagement for peace, stability and security in the region. I also welcome the presence of Ministers from Serbia and Kosovo in the Council, as well as the participation of the Delegation of the European Union at today's meeting.

Greece welcomes the political and institutional stability in Kosovo achieved with the recent presidential election. We hope that this development will bring the necessary impetus for Kosovo to advance on its European reform process and undertake concrete steps towards enhancing regional cooperation, with a renewed commitment to addressing outstanding issues related to its European perspective, through dialogue.

In this context, both Serbia and Kosovo must redouble their efforts to advance the normalization of their bilateral relations. The EU-facilitated Dialogue remains the only framework for resolving outstanding differences and establishing a sustainable foundation for peaceful coexistence. Both parties should engage constructively and in good faith, with a view to achieving tangible progress towards the full implementation of their commitments under the Brussels-Ohrid Agreements, without preconditions or conditionalities.

Greece reaffirms its full support for the EU Special Representative for the Belgrade-Pristina Dialogue, Peter Sørensen and his efforts to advance the normalization process. We also look forward to the convening of a high-level meeting of the EU-facilitated Dialogue between the two parties soon, chaired by Kaja Kallas, as an important opportunity to reinvigorate political commitment towards the normalization of relations between Serbia and Kosovo.

We remain concerned about the fragile situation in northern Kosovo, particularly unilateral measures affecting the Kosovo-Serb community and their access to essential public services. Actions involving demolitions, as well as disruptions or closures affecting healthcare, education and other vital services, risk undermining the rights of the population, deepening mistrust and further complicating the normalization process. Such measures should be addressed through dialogue and consultation, in close coordination with the Kosovo-Serb community and in full accordance with the relevant agreements reached within the EU-facilitated Dialogue, including the 14 March agreement.

In this context, the establishment of the Association/Community of the Serb-Majority Municipalities remains an essential outstanding commitment. Its establishment is necessary to advance the normalization process. We urge the parties to engage immediately towards its implementation and without further delay.

We further express our deep concern regarding the amendments to the Law governing the Kosovo Specialist Chambers, as well as the decision not to integrate Kosovo-Serb judges and prosecutors into the judicial system. These developments risk undermining confidence in judicial institutions and the rule of law. It is essential to strengthen judicial institutions and ensure their effective and inclusive functioning, independence and impartiality.

Greece strongly condemns inflammatory rhetoric, the glorification of war criminals and the denial of genocide, which are incompatible with the European values upon which our societies have been built. We urge all parties to refrain from such rhetoric, which only leads to division.

Finally, we acknowledge the continued importance of UNMIK's mandate under Security Council Resolution 1244 (1999), which provides the legal framework for a final political settlement between Serbia and Kosovo. The Mission continues to play a valuable role in promoting human rights, facilitating dialogue and strengthening trust between communities across ethnic and social divides, in close cooperation with EULEX and KFOR.

We remain open to a discussion on enhancing the effectiveness of the Mission, based on the needs and the realities on the ground.

Greece remains firmly convinced that the European perspective of Serbia and Kosovo is the only credible and sustainable path towards stability, security, and prosperity for the Western Balkans.

The vision of the 2003 Thessaloniki Declaration, reaffirmed by the Delphi Declaration of April this year, must continue to guide our collective efforts towards a shared European future, lasting peace, and sustainable economic development.

I thank you.