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Security Council Briefing on the implementation of the Peace, Security and Cooperation Framework for the Democratic Republic of the Congo and the Region (Great Lakes Region)
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Greece's Statement delivered by H.E. Ms Aglaia Balta
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I would like to thank Special Envoy Mr. Xia for this insightful briefing. I would also like to welcome the participation of the representative of Burundi in today's meeting.

At the outset, we note that despite continuous collective international and regional efforts and important diplomatic progress, the armed conflict in the eastern Democratic Republic of the Congo continues, affecting regional stability. The momentum generated by ongoing peace efforts must be preserved. All parties must de-escalate immediately, honor their commitments and accelerate their implementation.

I will make three points:

First, Resolutions 2773 & 2808 must be implemented immediately, fully and unconditionally. AFC/M23 must immediately cease hostilities, fully reverse the establishment of illegitimate parallel structures and withdraw from all areas under its control. State authority must be restored throughout the DRC. Greece's support for the independence, sovereignty, unity and territorial integrity of the DRC and of all the States in the Great Lakes Region is unwavering.

FDLR's effective neutralization is a matter of urgency and we support the efforts of DRC in this regard, in line with the commitments undertaken under the Washington Accords. The Rwanda Defence Forces (RDF) must cease its support for AFC/M23 and withdraw unconditionally from DRC territory.

Greece commends all mediation efforts, by the United States and Qatar and particularly those led by the African Union, including the initiatives of Togo and Angola, aimed at securing a ceasefire and advancing sustainable peace, stability and reconciliation in eastern DRC and throughout the Great Lakes Region.

Second, amidst the ongoing Ebola virus disease outbreak in eastern DRC, widespread food insecurity and natural disasters across the Region, we remain deeply concerned about the severe and complex humanitarian situation, the continuing violence in eastern DRC, the grave human rights violations and abuses committed against women and children and the large number of internally displaced persons (IDPs).

We are particularly alarmed by continued attacks by the ADF, notably in Ituri and North Kivu, which have caused further suffering among civilians and triggered new displacement.

All parties must respect International Humanitarian Law, ensure safe, rapid and unhindered humanitarian access and facilitate humanitarian flights.

We commend MONUSCO for its continued efforts to protect civilians and support efforts towards a permanent ceasefire, particularly following the completion of the first two missions of the EJVM+ in eastern DRC.

Third, we believe that the revitalization of the Peace, Security and Cooperation Framework is of critical importance, as the Special Envoy has stressed on many occasions.

All signatory countries must uphold the principles of sovereignty and territorial integrity of all States in the Great Lakes Region and refrain from aiding, supporting or tolerating illegal armed groups.

We commend the Special Envoy's recent good offices missions to several countries in the Region, as well as for promoting the WPS and YPS agendas and encouraging the full, effective and meaningful participation of women and youth in peace efforts.

We further reiterate that the sustainable and transparent governance of natural resources in the Great Lakes Region, equitable benefit-sharing mechanisms and a commitment to sustainable development practices, especially in the mining sector, are necessary. The illicit exploitation and

trafficking of natural resources must also be addressed. Strong regional cooperation, value chain integration and enhanced capacity building in relation to the region’s mineral wealth can contribute to prosperity, peace and security.

In conclusion,

Greece stands ready to support any further engagement by this Council, as necessary, to advance lasting peace, stability and development in the Great Lakes Region.

I thank you.