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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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Thank you, Madame President.

I thank SRSG and Head of UNMISS Anita Kiki Gbeho, African Union High Representative for the Horn of Africa, Jakaya Kikwete, and civil society briefer for their valuable insights. I welcome also the participation of South Sudan and South Africa in today's meeting.

The Secretary-General's latest report paints a deeply concerning picture of South Sudan at a critical juncture, when political divisions, escalating violence and worsening humanitarian conditions threaten to unravel the hard-won gains of the peace process. With elections scheduled for next month, inclusive dialogue and sustained international engagement are urgently needed to preserve the gains achieved through years of painstaking efforts and prevent a return to widespread conflict.

Allow me to highlight three points.

First, the political situation and the electoral process.

Greece remains deeply concerned about the limited implementation of the Revitalized Peace Agreement. The dissolution of the Revitalized Transitional Government of National Unity, the formation of a caretaker government and amendments to the electoral framework raise serious questions about the inclusivity and credibility of the transition. This development further increases uncertainty at a time when confidence-building and inclusive engagement are essential to safeguard the transition and prevent wider conflict.

With elections planned for 22 December, time is running out. Elections must not trigger further instability. They must be peaceful, credible, transparent and inclusive, supported by political consensus and adequate security arrangements. We call on all parties to recommit to the Peace Agreement, protect civic space and ensure meaningful participation by women and youth. We welcome the continued engagement of the African Union and IGAD.

Second, the protection of civilians and the humanitarian situation.

Greece is alarmed by violence in Jonglei, Upper Nile, Warrap and elsewhere. The Secretary-General reports 514 civilians killed and 524 injured during the reporting period.

We are particularly concerned by the continuing suffering of women and children. The recruitment and use of children, abductions, attacks on schools and hospitals, and conflict-related sexual violence demand urgent action. All parties must immediately end these violations, protect all survivors and ensure full accountability. Women must also participate fully, equally, meaningfully and safely in peacebuilding and political processes.

Meanwhile, severe food insecurity, climate shocks and arrivals from neighbouring Sudan are aggravating humanitarian needs. Humanitarian access must be safe, rapid and unhindered. Attacks on aid workers are unacceptable, while the severe funding shortfall requires urgent international attention and concrete support from the international community.

Third, the role and operational effectiveness of UNMISS.

Greece reiterates its unwavering support for UNMISS and its indispensable work protecting civilians, facilitating humanitarian assistance and supporting peace.

We strongly condemn the 24 August attack on an UNMISS patrol in the Jonglei State, which killed three peacekeepers and injured others. We extend condolences to their families of the falling and wish speedy recovery to those injured.

We stress that attacks against United Nations peacekeepers are unacceptable and call for accountability in accordance with international law. Those responsible should be brought to justice. We further urge all parties to uphold their obligations under international humanitarian law and international human rights law.

We urge the Government of South Sudan to fully respect the Status of Forces Agreement and guarantee UNMISS freedom of movement.

Madame President,

The coming weeks will be decisive. Our common priority must be preventing renewed conflict and preserving prospects for sustainable peace. Greece will continue supporting the people of South Sudan, UNMISS and regional efforts towards an inclusive, peaceful and nationally owned transition.

I thank you.