



**UN PEACEKEEPING MINISTERIAL MEETING**  
**Accra, December 5<sup>th</sup>- 6<sup>th</sup>, 2023**

**Statement by H.E. Mr. Nikolaos Dendias**  
**Minister of National Defence of the Hellenic Republic**

Mr. Chairman, Excellencies, Distinguished Delegates,

I am deeply honored to participate in the 2023 UN Peacekeeping Ministerial, and I extend my gratitude to the Republic of Ghana for hosting this significant event.

Undoubtedly, the UN stands as the foundation of global peace and security.

**Greece, as a founding member of the United Nations, is a steady and dedicated supporter of the principles and values of the United Nations.**

It is our utmost priority to safeguard these principles and values.

In this context, for the first time in its history, **Greece is vying for election in three different candidacies within the framework of the United Nations Organization.**

**These are:**

**Our candidacy for a non-permanent seat on the UN Security Council for the 2025-2026 term. Our candidacy for the Human Rights Council for the 2028-2030 term and our candidacy for the Presidency of the United Nations General Assembly in 2035.**

Addressing climate change is another important pillar of our policy.

As a member of the group of Friends on Climate and Security, we support the inclusion of the environmental impact of climate change on the agenda of the Security Council, as the **primary challenge facing humanity in the 21st century.**

In this regard, **Greece has undertaken to organize the 2024 International Conference "Our Ocean Conference".**

Energy security is another priority for Greece.

Greece, as part of the European family, strongly supports the diversification of sources, suppliers and routes and the development of indigenous natural gas resources.

In the midst of this rapidly changing energy dynamics, Greece emerges as a viable and credible transit country to European markets.

Linking and connecting the Greek market with other countries in the EU, South East Europe and certainly the Eastern Mediterranean is of paramount importance.

Comprehensive and regional co-operation and collaboration is the best and most cost effective way to prepare against new forms of threats.

The philosophy of regional cooperation mechanisms aims to promote, through joint actions and initiatives, the purposes related to the consolidation of peace, the strengthening of stability, and the encouragement of partnerships, to promote cooperation and coexistence in the Eastern Mediterranean region.

The promotion of regional cooperation is a key component of Greece's policy in the Balkans and the Eastern Mediterranean.

Unfortunately, today's Ministerial Meeting coincides with major challenges that our world is facing.

In particular the current developments in the Middle East and in Ukraine.

In every occasion, Greece, once again, stood by its principles, based on International Law:

Among others, the respect of sovereignty and territorial integrity of all states, the unconditional **respect for the UN Security Council Resolutions**, the promotion of good neighborly relations, the inviolability of borders, the total rejection of revisionism, the condemnation of terrorism and the need to **protect the civilian population during armed conflicts**.

In this context Peace Operations serve as a political instrument aimed at fostering an environment conducive to peace.

Greece has consistently played its part in the organization's peacekeeping missions.

Our commitment is evident in our ongoing support for the **"UN Interim Force in Lebanon" (UNIFIL)** and active participation in the UN Peacekeeping Capability Readiness System (PCRS), where we contribute personnel, and assets, and offer free specialized training for support operations.

Additionally, we make noteworthy voluntary contributions to **UNFICYP**.

Recognizing the imperative to **enhance the safety and security of UN peacekeepers** operating in high-risk environments, it is crucial to equip them with advanced technology and tailored training.

In this context, Greece is **prepared to offer training to UN uniformed personnel in countering Improvised Explosive Devices (IEDs)** before their deployment in peacekeeping missions.

Recognizing the crucial role of mobility in supporting peacekeeping missions, Greece is ready to supply an **"Autonomous Portable Power Generation Storage and Management Hybrid Power Unit"** to meet the energy needs of mobile operational formations and remote camps.

Additionally, given the significant concern over mental health issues affecting our armed and security peacekeeping forces, we can contribute to **preventing, assessing, and early detecting mental disorders, particularly post-traumatic stress disorder**.

Our proposed new selection and evaluation method for UN peacekeeping operations personnel aim to address these challenges.

Dear Colleagues,

**Greece is unwavering in its dedication to bolstering UN peacekeeping missions, and we are determined to contribute significant capabilities.**

Our nation actively advocates for Defense Diplomacy and regional cooperation initiatives, based on International Law, aiming to ensure security and stability in our region.

**The respect of International Humanitarian Law is an imperative of the international community and for Greece.**

**We are fully committed to upholding the UN's ideals, values, and principles.**

That includes the promotion of democratic governance, unwavering respect for human rights, the pursuit of peaceful dispute resolution, and strict adherence to the tenets of International Law.

Thank you.