

**Security Council**

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**Letter dated 9 May 2025 from the Permanent Representative of
Greece to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General**

I have the honour to inform you that, during the presidency of Greece, the Security Council plans to hold a high-level open debate on the theme “Strengthening maritime security through international cooperation for global stability” in connection with the item entitled “Maintenance of international peace and security”. The open debate will be held on Tuesday, 20 May 2025, at 10 a.m. and will be chaired by the Prime Minister of Greece, Kyriakos Mitsotakis.

Please find attached a concept note to guide discussions on the topic of the debate (see annex). I should be grateful if the present letter and its annex could be circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(Signed) Evangelos **Sekeris**
Permanent Representative of Greece to the United Nations



Annex to the letter dated 9 May 2025 from the Permanent Representative of Greece to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

Concept note for the Security Council high-level open debate on the theme “Strengthening maritime security through international cooperation for global stability”, to be held on 20 May 2025

As the rotating President of the Security Council for May 2025, Greece intends to convene an open debate on 20 May 2025 on the theme “Strengthening maritime security through international cooperation for global stability”, under the item “Maintenance of international peace and security”, which will be chaired by the Prime Minister of Greece, Kyriakos Mitsotakis.

The debate will provide an opportunity for Member States to engage in a strategic dialogue on: (a) strengthening international efforts to counter maritime security threats in a holistic way; (b) promoting awareness of the seriousness of these threats and of the need for States and competent international organizations to intensify their efforts to address them; and (c) following up on relevant developments in the field of maritime security in order for the Security Council to consider taking further steps, as appropriate.

Maritime security is fundamental to global stability, economic resilience, the well-being of all nations and sustainable development. Disruptions to maritime security have increased, undermining the freedom of navigation and the safety of maritime infrastructure. Attacks on international shipping have endangered the safety and security of merchant and commercial vessels and their crews, disrupting maritime routes and global supply chains, thus posing a threat to food and energy security, international trade and economic stability. Moreover, maritime crime continues to impede maritime security and global stability and to threaten legitimate uses of the sea. The interconnection between illicit activities at sea, such as transnational organized crime, illicit trafficking and diversion of arms, drug trafficking, illegal trade and trafficking, trafficking in persons and migrant smuggling, piracy and illegal, unreported and unregulated fishing, is becoming more extensive and intense, also facilitating or supporting other illicit activities, such as terrorist acts. Emerging risks deriving from new technologies add to existing threats, changing the landscape of maritime security.

The above threats to maritime security have serious destabilizing effects, which have an impact on international peace and security. The Security Council, in the exercise of its primary responsibility for the maintenance of international peace and security under the Charter of the United Nations, has been seized of the matter on different occasions.¹ Among other threats, the Security Council has expressed its grave concern about the endangerment of lives by the smuggling of migrants and trafficking in persons and has also recognized the importance of maritime security, which is essential for the stability of global supply chains and economic development. In the statement by its President of 9 August 2021 (S/PRST/2021/15), the Security Council noted with concern the ongoing threats to maritime safety and security posed by piracy, armed robbery at sea, terrorists’ travel and use of sea to conduct crimes and acts against shipping, offshore installations, critical infrastructure and other maritime

¹ See, for example, resolutions [1814 \(2008\)](#) and [1838 \(2008\)](#); resolutions [2018 \(2011\)](#), [2039 \(2012\)](#) and [2634 \(2022\)](#) and statement by the President of the Security Council of 25 April 2016 (S/PRST/2016/4); resolutions [1540 \(2004\)](#), [1718 \(2006\)](#) and [2663 \(2022\)](#); resolution [2240 \(2015\)](#); and resolutions [2722 \(2024\)](#) and [2768 \(2025\)](#).

interests, as well as the continuing problem of transnational organized crimes committed at sea.

The enhancement of international cooperation, including through partnerships, is ever more necessary, especially in the following areas:

- **Maritime domain awareness.** An important area of cooperation, including for purposes of capacity-building, pertains to the need for States to increase the level of maritime domain awareness, including through coordinating maritime surveillance tools, integrating new technologies and improving information-sharing mechanisms. It is, therefore, necessary to develop comprehensive strategies to counter maritime security threats, such as organized crime, and to enhance coordination across sectors, including with the private sector.
- **Risk management measures.** In view of the serious consequences of emerging threats in the transport and energy sector, it is essential to coordinate efforts to protect maritime infrastructure and supply chains and to strengthen their resilience. This can be achieved by conducting accurate risk assessments and taking informed and timely risk management measures and appropriate action.
- **Multidimensional responses.** Cooperation and capacity-building should focus on a multifaceted approach, which may include: evaluating risks and vulnerabilities in trade, transport and security, implementing mitigating measures, developing digital skills in order to, among other things, address cybersecurity issues, strengthening repair capacities and identifying relevant best practices.

Awareness should be further raised about the impact on maritime security of climate change and environmental degradation and their potential to act as a risk multiplier. Another matter of concern relates to the environmental consequences from unlawful acts, especially attacks on international shipping, with implications for international peace and security.

A prerequisite for maritime security is to enhance compliance with relevant existing legal instruments. The crucial importance of all Member States fully implementing security-related Security Council resolutions and respecting obligations deriving from international agreements dealing with maritime security threats cannot be overstressed. The United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea sets out the legal framework within which all activities in the oceans and seas must be carried out. Specific instruments have been elaborated, on this basis, by States and international organizations, in particular the International Maritime Organization, to address threats to maritime security.

In the light of the above, this meeting will focus on how to effectively respond to these emerging and developing threats in order to ensure the maintenance of international peace and security, building on the actions and initiatives already undertaken by Member States and international organizations, while also taking advantage of new technologies for preventing and countering such illicit activities, based on the following guiding questions:

- What measures could States and competent international organizations take to mitigate the impact of these emerging and developing threats to international navigation, international trade and the stability of supply chains?
- How could existing frameworks and tools be effectively implemented in order to enhance stability and security? How could mechanisms and initiatives be better coordinated?

- In order for States to strengthen their resilience capacities, what priorities should they set? What are the most urgent needs for capacity-building?
- How could new technologies be used in order to scale up an effective and comprehensive response to such threats? What sort of new technologies and under which conditions and policies should they be used?
- How could relevant national authorities (e.g. law enforcement and criminal justice) strengthen their capacities to counter the increasing interdependence between criminal activities?

The meeting will take the form of a high-level open debate presided over by the Prime Minister of Greece, Kyriakos Mitsotakis. Member States are encouraged to send senior officials to the event. The Secretary-General, António Guterres, will give a briefing to the Council. Other briefers will include Melina N. Travlos, President, Board of Directors, Union of Greek Shipowners, and Christian Bueger, Professor of International Relations at the University of Copenhagen and a research fellow at the United Nations Institute for Disarmament Research.

Member States that wish to participate under rule 37 of the provisional rules of procedure of the Security Council should register their speakers through the eSpeakers module of e-deleGATE, from 9.30 a.m. on 15 May 2025, and upload a letter from their Permanent Representative or Chargé d'affaires a.i. to the President of the Security Council. Participating Member States are not required to submit written statements through e-deleGATE. The statements made will be included in the provisional verbatim record of the meeting.
