

Hellenic Republic (Greece)

Positions for Security Council

I. Security Council Reform

On September 26, 2024, Kyriakos Mitsotakis, Prime Minister of the Hellenic Republic, addressed the United Nations General Assembly, calling for Security Council Reform. He echoed the sentiments of many: Security Council reform must happen now. In order to continue fulfilling our functions, we must adapt to the changing world around us via constant assessment and reform, yet this council has failed to do so time and time again. The Security Council has only ever been reformed once in the 79 year history of its existence. In 1965, following a recommendation made by the General Assembly in 1963, the Security Council non-permanent membership was reformed to allow ten non-permanent members instead of its previous six.¹ This reform was crucial, vastly improving the function, diversity, and outcomes of the Security Council and the United Nations as a whole. With that said, the stagnancy in Security Council reform we see now surely cannot continue as it will ensure the demise of the effectiveness of not just the Security Council, but the United Nations. To continue on as if we are immune to necessary reform would be a grave and presumptuous misjudgement.

The Hellenic Republic has long stood for Security Council reform and has served as a non-permanent member of the Security Council during the previous periods of 1952-1953 and 2005-2006.² With a history and understanding of the Security Council, the Hellenic Republic urges the Security Council to take two immediate actions: I. Reform Veto Power and II. Institute Quinquennial Security Council Evaluation Reform Sessions. In tandem, these beneficial actions will foster improved diplomacy and cooperation, stifle the monopolization of power, and bring further legitimacy to this body by encouraging a more equitable system. Dialogue, diplomacy, and democracy are what guide the Hellenic Republic in its time as a non-permanent member of the Security Council. None of these can be achieved to their fullest potential within the Security Council if the veto power continues to go unreformed. The Veto power held by permanent members of the Security Council is extremely controversial, as it monopolizes power and limits the ability of the United Nations to carry out actions which would be otherwise favored if not for the veto. Dialogue may exist between member states, but can be quickly deemed insignificant when the dialogue contributing to global governance is stripped of its ability to take effect. Article I of the United Nations Charter calls upon member states to take “collective measures” and “achieve international co-operation in solving international problems.” Diplomacy is central to our function. But, collective measures and international co-operation become meaningless when one voice has the ability to overrule the rest. Efforts for diplomacy then become ineffective because the veto power inherently signifies that those practicing diplomacy do not value one another as equals.

The Hellenic Republic further recommends that the Security Council must convene quinquennially for the sole purpose of implementing any necessary Security Council reform. As the world which it serves rapidly changes, an effective Security Council must assess its function, and, in doing so, encourage any needed reform. These sessions will create a backbone for necessary change within the Security Council, creating a clear course of action for future reform as deemed necessary. In the words of Prime Minister Kyriakos Mitsotakis, “the Security Council is a relic of a world that no longer exists.”³ We must take immediate action to reform the Security Council now and quinquennially to ensure a better future for our world. We are the ones who hold the power to transform the way in which we serve all of humanity.

¹ *In Hindsight: The Long and Winding Road to Security Council Reform*, <https://www.securitycouncilreport.org/monthly-forecast/2022-10/in-hindsight-the-long-and-winding-road-to-security-council-reform.php#:~:text=The%20Security%20Council's%20structure%20has,1965%20following%20the%20required%20ratifications.> .

² *Countries Elected Members*, <https://main.un.org/securitycouncil/en/content/countries-elected-members>.

³ *Prime Minister Kyriakos Mitsotakis' speech at the 79th Session of the UN General Assembly*, <https://www.primeminister.gr/en/2024/09/27/3500>.

II. Securing and Upholding the Protection of Children Impacted by Armed Conflict

The Hellenic Republic would be remiss not to call upon its fellow member states in the Security Council to discuss the protection of children affected by armed conflict. Aware of the many United Nations bodies which strive to provide protection, aid, and justice to the victims of the detriments of armed conflict, the Hellenic Republic bears in mind one of the most vulnerable populations affected by armed conflict: children. Central to the foundation of the United Nations is preserving fundamental human rights and dignity.⁴ If we fail to protect children in the midst of armed conflict, then we fail at upholding fundamental human rights and dignity, and consequently, the foundational claims of our Charter. Further, we then are the actors which call into question our own legitimacy as a body. The Hellenic Republic hopes we speak for all member states when saying that upholding the provisions of our Charter is central to our function, and falling short of upholding these provisions is a great failure. Our Charter is not a suggested guide. It is a mandatory contract of duties each member state within the United Nations takes the responsibility to fulfil and uphold. The Hellenic Republic recognizes that, as a global governance body, we will not be capable of addressing every issue which presents itself or combat every grievance which juxtaposes our fundamental beliefs. Nevertheless, when grievances are extraordinarily harrowing, they must not be disregarded.

The Hellenic Republic prides itself in our history of ensuring the protection of those affected by armed conflict and recognizes other member states who share the same pride in doing so. On May 22, 2025 the Hellenic Republic delivered a joint statement, alongside eighty member states, reaffirming dedication to upholding humanitarian law. The Hellenic Republic wishes not to just speak but to act. Reaffirming dedication to such efforts is not where our work ends, but where our work begins. The Preamble to the United Nations Charter directs all member states of the United Nations to “establish conditions under which justice and respect for the obligations arising from treaties and other sources of international law can be maintained.”⁵ However, we see an abundance of war crimes which disregard fundamental human rights and dignity within recent armed conflicts around the world. With blatant disregard for the promises made in our charter as well as established international law, we must develop additional provisions which aim to further secure and uphold the protection of children in the midst of armed conflict as well as address complexities that arise with changing situations.

To do this, the Hellenic Republic proposes the creation of the United Nations Commission on Protecting Children Affected by Armed Conflict. This commission will function as a subsidiary organ of the United Nations General Assembly and would: I. Solely focus on assessing current threats to the protection of children in armed conflict; II. Develop and propose resolutions to the United Nations General Assembly aimed in combatting current threats to the protection of children in armed conflict; III. Call for accountability, as well as suggest punitive measures for member states found to be in violation of their duty to protect children in armed conflict, IV. Work closely with and request assistance or aid from the International Law Commission (ILC), the United Nations Peacebuilding Commission (PBC), the United Nations Human Rights Office of the High Commissioner (OHCHR), the United Nations Office of the High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), the World Health Organization (WHO), the United Nations International Children’s Emergency Fund (UNICEF), and the United Nations Central Emergency Response Fund (CERF) when armed conflict is posing significant threat to children. This commission will convene biannually and as needed in the case of emergencies regarding dire situations related to the protection of children in the midst of armed conflict. This commission would request funding from the United Nations Peacekeeping fund as well as the bodies mentioned previously. The Hellenic Republic would additionally suggest the creation of a voluntary fund used for carrying out the suggested aid for children declared to be in imminent danger and drastic need of protection. The Hellenic Republic would happily contribute to efforts for the foundational year of this commission in ways such as providing 30 peacekeeping officers to implement measures proposed by this commission. The Hellenic Republic looks forward to working with our fellow member states in the Security Council to develop meaningful measures in addressing security concerns such as the protection of children affected by armed conflict.

⁴ *United Nations Charter (full text)*, <https://www.un.org/en/about-us/un-charter/full-text>.

⁵ *Ibid.*