Statement by Greece

at the ECOSOC Humanitarian Affairs Segment General Discussion

23 June 2022

Mr. President,

Greece aligns itself with the statement by the European Union and would like to add the following in its national capacity:

At the outset, we would like to congratulate and thank Bolivia for chairing this year’s ECOSOC Humanitarian Affairs Segment and express our support to this forum and our commitment to the promotion of humanitarian action.

Mr. President,

The world faces an unprecedented food crisis due to widespread protracted armed conflicts, including the war in Ukraine, as well as longer-term factors, such as poverty, climate change, the pandemic and displacement.

In order to tackle these humanitarian challenges, we should, first and foremost, safeguard full compliance with and further promotion of International Humanitarian Law, in line with the Geneva Conventions.

In this regard, we need to coordinate our efforts towards better monitoring of IHL violations, through effective information-sharing platforms and best practices, and unequivocally condemn such acts, when they occur.

We should also strive for better monitoring of sanctions implementation regimes and make sure that there are sufficient humanitarian exceptions.

Moreover, we have to fight against impunity, through investigations and accountability for serious breaches of IHL, as well as assist victims of atrocities to achieve justice.

At the operational level, we need to ensure safe and unimpeded access for medical and humanitarian workers in conflicts, with a view to the effective delivery of humanitarian assistance.

Thus, we propose the elaboration of a Regulatory Framework on Humanitarian Corridors by land, sea, river or air, including the establishment of cease-fires, security guarantees and diplomatic trade-offs, which are essential components of an operating environment conducive to safe passage of people and access to humanitarian assistance for those in need.
Furthermore, we need to safeguard that no attacks against civilian infrastructure take place, in particular against schools and medical facilities and that the provision of basic services, such as health and education, remains unimpeded.

In this vein, we need to give special emphasis to the protection of the most vulnerable, such as women and children, mainly against sexual exploitation and harassment.

Last but not least, we should prioritize needs-based assessments, resulting in accurate and complementary funding decisions by international stakeholders, with the ultimate goal of advancing the Humanitarian-Development-Peace nexus.

Mr. President,

In the face of the challenges just outlined, the international community must continue strengthening effective multilateralism and promoting a rules-based international order, where no State or individual is above the Law and no person is left outside its scope of protection.

Greece remains committed to the principles of humanitarianism and keeps proving it, every time a need arises, through the provision of humanitarian aid and other relevant initiatives, the most recent one being the assistance to Ukraine and neighbouring countries.

Thank you