



**Statement at the first Ministerial meeting of the  
Coalition for the Sahel held by videoconference,  
12 June 2020**

**Mr. Nikolaos Dendias,  
Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Hellenic Republic**

Greece warmly welcomes the establishment of the Coalition which aspires to orchestrate the efforts of the international community to stabilize the region in a coherent and integrated manner.

The deteriorating situation in the Sahel undermines the fragile stability and security of the wider region, including Libya.

The Sahel is currently facing a number of complex and multi-dimensional challenges.

These include the spread of terrorism and extremism, organized crime, migrant trafficking, as well as dire humanitarian conditions, exacerbated by the COVID-19 epidemic.

As recently agreed in the “*EU-G5 Sahel Joint Declaration*”, we need to step up efforts to preserve and promote constructive and comprehensive cooperation in the area of migration.

We hope that this priority will be effectively addressed, through actions of the Coalition.

In light of the above, Greece intends to increase its overall engagement in the region, while we are also increasing our political presence in the wider region of Western Africa, by opening an Embassy in the region.

In particular, in terms of the first pillar, we are currently planning to contribute with human resources to the Task Force Takuba in Mali.

At the same time, with regard to the second pillar, we support the increased involvement of the EU’s Common Security and Defense Policy missions in the region.

Greece has been continuously contributing to European Union’s Training Mission Mali (EUTM) since 2013.

Finally, I need to thank you especially, Josep, for the notable engagement of the EU in all four pillars of the Coalition.

Also for the leading role the EU is assuming in the second and third pillars, including through the “Partnership for Stability and Security in the Sahel” (P3S).