



PERMANENT MISSION OF  
GREECE  
TO THE UNITED NATIONS



## **Security Council Briefing Briefing on the situation in the Middle East (Syria)**

**25 March 2025**

Greece's Statement delivered  
by HE Ambassador Evangelos Sekeris,  
Permanent Representative of Greece to the United Nations, New York

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Thank you Madame President and let me thank Special Envoy Geir Pedersen, USG Tom Fletcher and Ms. Joumana Seif, civil society briefer for their insightful presentations.

Madame President,

As we are discussing the latest developments in Syria, I would like to make the following points:

Greece stands in solidarity with the Syrian people and supports Syria's recovery, which can only be assured through a truly inclusive political transition.

The recent atrocities, condemned strongly by this Council's Presidential Statement of 14 March, have increased the urgency for an inclusive political transition, without foreign interference, while securing the protection of all ethnic and religious communities, including Christians, Alawites, Druzes and Kurds, in the spirit of national unity and the key principles of UNSCR 2254. Safeguarding Syria's rich cultural heritage and religious monuments is also key, as it is demonstrating a clear dedication to International Law, including the International Law of the Sea.

The appalling violence in Syria's coastal region has also increased the urgency for full accountability and transitional justice. The credibility of the interim Authorities rests on holding the perpetrators of these attacks accountable. We expect the independent committee to work well and fast to this end.

Enhancing accountability and establishing transitional justice is critical. As consistently advocated by the Syrian Civil Society Organizations across the board, the only viable future for Syria is the one where accountability, concord, dialogue and peace prevail. In this light, Syria must allow the Independent International Commission of Inquiry to investigate all violations. All Syrian Communities should be able to live in Syria without fear.

We are closely monitoring developments, including the recent agreement between the SDF and Damascus, as well as the announcement of a Constitutional Declaration, expecting that they will feed into a viable and inclusive political transition.

In this context, we took careful note of the reluctance, especially the one expressed by the Kurdish element, *vis-à-vis* the Constitutional Declaration. A declaration that contains several points raising concern, such as the lack of separation of powers, or the law of one religion being the primary source of jurisprudence in a multi-ethnic, multi-religious country. Implementation and the actual level of inclusivity in the new structures will be key, as is the appointment of a new, inclusive interim government that was proclaimed by the interim President.

Madame President,

As part of the EU family, Greece has been stressing that the easing of sanctions shall be made in a gradual, conditional and reversible manner so as to ensure that our expectations are met in terms of an inclusive transition, accountability for recent atrocities, as well as full respect of International Law.

Recognizing the severe humanitarian situation on the ground and standing in full solidarity with the Syrian people, Greece made its pledge during the 9<sup>th</sup> Brussels Conference in support of Syria's recovery. Overall, the EU has pledged nearly 2.5 billion € in support of the country's recovery for 2025 and 2026.

Madame President,

The creation of conditions for safe and voluntary returns of Syrian refugees must remain among our primary goals. Syrians deserve to go home and contribute to the re-building of their country. We fully support the efforts of the UNHCR and OCHA in this regard, as well as collective efforts towards restoring shelters and critical infrastructure in Syria contributing to the safe and voluntary return of Syrian refugees.

Greece reiterates its unwavering support for Syria's unity, sovereignty and territorial integrity and condemns all systematic violations of Syrian sovereignty.

Lastly, we welcome the recent visit by the interim Minister of Foreign Affairs, Mr. Al-Shaibani to the OPCW and the commitment to work for the elimination of the remaining chemical weapons in his country.

Madame President,

In closing, let me stress that there is a path towards a prosperous, stable and inclusive Syria. To get there, we believe this Council's message must be clear: international legitimacy and recognition lie at the end of a fully inclusive political path, with strong and inclusive State Institutions and with respect of International Law—including the International Law of the Sea. These are critical elements for ensuring regional stability and promoting Syria's long-term security and prosperity.

I thank you.