



PERMANENT MISSION OF GREECE
TO THE UNITED NATIONS



Security Council Briefing on the situation in the Middle East (Syria) 10 April 2025

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

Thank you Mr. President,

Let me start by thanking our briefers, Assistant Secretary-General Khiari and Under-Secretary-General Lacroix, for the valuable information they have provided. Today, I would like to highlight the following three points:

First, the sovereignty and territorial integrity of Syria must be respected by all.

Syrian sovereignty has been systematically violated. We reiterate our call for the full implementation of the 1974 Disengagement Agreements and emphasize the responsibility of all parties to uphold international obligations. While we recognize the right of Israel to defend itself and ensure the security of its citizens, we stress the need for this to be done in accordance with international law and with the outmost care to avoid civilian casualties. We express our condolences for those deceased and pray for the speedy recovery of those injured.

We similarly draw attention to violations of Syrian sovereignty in the North, coupled with ongoing violations and kinetic activities further exacerbating Syria's instability. We deplore attacks in Syria's North and Northeast, among others on the Tishreen Dam, which is key for local water security.

Greece continues to stand firmly in support of Syria's sovereignty and territorial integrity, stressing that a united, secure and peaceful Syria is the best way to ensure the wellbeing of its people and regional stability for Syria and its neighbours.

Second, a truly inclusive political transition, combined with transitional justice, is the key to viable peace in the country.



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Following the fall of the prior regime in Syria, Greece remains steadfast in its solidarity with the Syrian people, as we work toward the recovery of the country. This recovery can only be achieved through a truly inclusive political transition. One that is guided by the principles of UNSCR 2254, supporting the formation of credible and resilient state institutions which respect International Law and the International Law of the Sea. The protection and the full integration of all Syrian communities, including Christians, Alawites, Druze and Kurds is key for national reconciliation and the long-term prosperity of the country.

We are encouraged by the recent engagement between interim President Al-Sharaa and Special Envoy Pedersen on the importance of a transparent election process for an interim people's assembly.

The atrocities committed in the coastal region, as condemned in the Council's PRST of 14 March, underscore the urgency for full accountability and inclusive justice. This is crucial for the credibility of the interim Authorities. In this regard, we eagerly expect the outcome of the independent fact-finding committee, set-up to identify those responsible for the mass killings and bring them to justice. We also reaffirm our support to the Independent International Impartial and Objective Mechanism (IIIM), the International Impartial Mechanism (IIM), and the Commission of Inquiry (COI); all critical UN mechanisms in terms of accountability.

On the Constitutional Declaration and political transition, we take note of the formation of a transitional government in Damascus, and we consider the inclusion of representatives from ethnic and religious groups to be critical for its success. We likewise note, however, that these developments were not met with universal acceptance from all communities and that there might still be some question-marks on how representative the makeup of the transitional government is. We are equally concerned that, among others, the increased influence of the executive power on the formation of the legislative authority may not lead to a truly inclusive and viable political process.

Third and last point: We must not lose sight of the humanitarian crisis in Syria.

Recognizing the severe humanitarian crisis in the country, Greece made at the recent Recovery Conference in Brussels, a pledge in support of Syria's recovery, contributing to the EU's overall commitment of some 2.5 billion Euros, tangibly reflecting our commitment to help rebuild Syria.



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Within the EU, Greece has supported the easing of sanctions while emphasizing that this should be done in a gradual, conditional, and reversible manner. This approach is taken in solidarity with the Syrian people as a means to ensure that expectations are met in terms of an inclusive transition, accountability, transitional justice, as well as full adherence to International Law, including the International Law of the Sea.

Mr. President,

In closing, let me stress that the only viable future for Syria is one of peace, justice, and inclusiveness. Greece remains committed to supporting a political transition that respects the rights of all of Syria's diverse communities, advances the prosperity and security of the Syrian people and ensures regional stability. For this purpose, we must continue to uphold Syria's unity, sovereignty and territorial integrity, free from external influences and interventions.

I thank you.