



PERMANENT MISSION OF GREECE  
TO THE UNITED NATIONS



**Security Council Briefing on the situation in the Middle East,  
including the Palestinian Question  
30 June 2025**

Greece's Statement delivered  
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Thank you Madam President.

I would like to thank Assistant Secretary-General Mr. Khiari for his briefing today.

Madame President,

While the world's attention was diverted elsewhere, amidst momentous developments in the region and beyond, the scale of suffering of civilians and particularly those borne by children in Gaza has continued to grow.

We are shocked by the images of children suffering from malnutrition and severe injuries, including amputations; as we are by those of Palestinians being killed or injured near non-UN militarized distribution sites while trying to reach food supplies, especially at a time when the entire population is at risk of famine.

Humanitarian aid must never be politicized or used as a means of pressure. The population in need must be given safe access to humanitarian aid and care. Meanwhile, the safety and security of humanitarian workers is undermined on a daily basis.

In this respect, we urge Israel to fully lift the blockade, as well as to allow and facilitate the safe, unconditional, massive and unhindered delivery of humanitarian aid at scale and to restore full access to electricity and water.

It is beyond doubt that this goal cannot be achieved without the valuable expertise of the UN. UNRWA's role remains pivotal and indispensable.

We repeat once again our position that any humanitarian plan must adhere to the core principles of international humanitarian law, cover all parts of Gaza and support the existing humanitarian operations within the Strip.

At the same time, we cannot and must not forget that hostages continue to suffer, being held in captivity by Hamas for 19 months already. Having repeatedly condemned the October 7 terrorist attacks and the ongoing detention and inhumane treatment of hostages, we reiterate our demand for their immediate and unconditional release. We deplore the refusal of Hamas to hand them over.

Madam President,

While the situation in Gaza remains dire, it is equally alarming in the rest of the Occupied Palestinian Territories. Reports indicate that more than 40.000 people remain displaced. The recent raid in the Askar camp in Nablus exposed thousands more at great risk of forced displacement. Strict movement restrictions through physical checkpoints, gates, roadblocks and other barriers isolate communities from essential services and sources of livelihood. Palestinian-owned structures continue to be demolished and seized. Civilians are subjected to attacks and arrests. UN premises, including UNRWA's schools and health centers, continue to be attacked.

We strongly condemn the escalation of violence in the West Bank, including East Jerusalem, following the increased settler violence, the expansion of illegal settlements and Israel's military operations. Settlement expansion is contrary to international law and the relevant Security Council Resolutions.

Madame President,

There is no military solution for Gaza. Political will is the key to ending the war and paving the way towards the revitalization of the political process with the aim of achieving Two States living side by side, in peace and security.

And while the Conference under the co-chairmanship of France and Saudi Arabia initially planned for June has been temporarily postponed, Greece looks forward to it being held in the near future, so as to bring new momentum to the political process given that the Palestinian issue remains central for regional stability. The ceasefire between Israel and Iran is an opportunity for the International Community to focus as a matter of priority on Gaza and a political horizon for the Palestinians.

In the same spirit, Greece stands ready to engage towards moving the Arab plan forward, as presented by Egypt. It is a constructive proposal for planning the day-after in Gaza, where an empowered and reformed Palestinian Authority will be capable of exerting effective governance in Gaza and the West Bank without any government or security role for Hamas and without any forced displacement of Palestinians.

Finally, Greece welcomes the recent bold reforms undertaken by the Palestinian Authority, as well as the recent appointment of a Foreign Minister, and stands ready to assist the Palestinian Authority in the next steps forward.

I thank you.