



PERMANENT MISSION OF GREECE
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Security Council Briefing on the situation in the Middle East (Syria) 17 June 2025

Greece's Statement delivered
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Thank you, Madam President, and let me also thank Deputy Special Envoy Rochdi, ASG Msuya, as well as Ms. Amneh Khouli for their valuable briefings today.

Madam President,

The recent outbreak of hostilities in the Middle East is a testament to how fragile the region's stability is. Against this background, a unified, stable and fully representative Syria -whose sovereignty and territorial integrity is respected by all- should remain our common goal.

Greece, as a member of the Security Council, and in line with its consistent stance towards Syria since the fall of the Assad regime, supports Syria's inclusive political transition, as the essential goal for so many Syrians in their country and abroad.

As challenges remain, I wish to highlight the four following points today:

First, a fully inclusive political transition, in line with the principles of Security Council Resolution 2254, is necessary for security and stability in the country.

Without the political integration of all the components of the Syrian society, recovery efforts will remain fragmented and vulnerable.

All Syrians deserve to live without fear. This includes Christians, Alawites, Kurdish Syrians and Druze, without ever forgetting women.

All Syrians deserve to see themselves represented in their government and institutions. In this vein, we expect the National Dialogue to continue, and for the future Constitution to echo the voices of the whole of the Syrian society and diaspora.

In the Northeast, the March agreement between the SDF -a critical ally in the international fight against terrorism- and Damascus, must be carefully implemented by both sides, and we encourage them to address pending issues in a spirit of compromise. As we urge the transitional Government to ensure that armed groups in the North of Syria do not disrupt the process, so do we urge regional actors to refrain from violence or inciting escalation.

Second, Syria's successful integration in the international community is contingent on its respect for International Law.

For Syria to find its footing and recover, it is imperative that it fully adheres to the global rules. This involves founding its relations with other states on the basis of international law, including the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS) which constitutes customary International Law.

Syria has to demonstrate that it respects the sovereign rights of neighbouring countries, both on land and at sea.

Third, Greece will assist in alleviating the humanitarian situation in the country and will contribute effectively to its reconstruction and economic reconstitution.

Fully aware of this, Greece pledged its tangible support for Syria's recovery at the recent 9th Brussels Conference in March, and is ready to contribute more with any means necessary. In this spirit, the EU was swift in lifting sanctions as part of a gradual, conditional and reversible approach, to support Syria.

We shall continue, ever-vigilant, to closely monitor developments on the basis of concrete progress on accountability, inclusivity of the political process as well as continuous respect for International Law.

Against this backdrop, we welcome the progress made with International Financial Institutions, as well as the interest of international development actors and NGOs, following major sanctions-lifting announcements. More good news is expected to come, as long as the Syrian Authorities stay the course.

Fourth, ensuring accountability and promoting transitional justice is critical, against the backdrop of a precarious security situation.

We welcome last week's informal GA briefing by Ms Karla Quintana, Head of the IIMP [*Independent Institution on Missing Persons*], confirming that the transitional Authorities are cooperating with the Institution.

Equally, we welcome the establishment of two Syrian National Authorities for Missing Persons and Transitional Justice, which we expect to function with transparency, impartiality and inclusiveness.

The abhorrent violence in March, targeting mostly Alawites, but also Christians, and the violent incidents against the Druze community in May, are stark reminders of the risks and challenges that remain in this context.

It is indeed crucial that the transitional Authorities maintain order, ensure control over armed groups, protect all Syrians regardless of their background, and hold all perpetrators accountable without delay, in line with International Law norms and standards. Greece calls for a swift, transparent, credible and impartial investigation by the investigative committee and for the relevant UN mechanisms to be also allowed to investigate these crimes.

Last but not least, the security landscape poses several challenges. A sustainable solution to the issue of foreign fighters and the integration of all armed groups into national security forces is a prerequisite for internal security and political stability. Ensuring that all terrorist and violent extremist elements are excluded, as part of a wider and robust Security Sector Reform effort, is critical.

Madam President,

In closing, let me stress that Syria has a historic opportunity to achieve progress and prosperity, by becoming a factor of stability for the wider region and an example of successful reconstruction after years of devastation and tyranny. Historically tied with the Syrian people, Greece wholeheartedly supports this vision, to which the UN system is of paramount importance.

I thank you.