



**PERMANENT MISSION OF GREECE  
TO THE UNITED NATIONS**



## **Security Council Briefing on the situation in the Middle East (Yemen) 12 June 2025**

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

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Thank you Madame President,

I would like to thank Special Envoy Hans Grundberg and Assistant-Secretary General Joyce Msuya for their as always very informative briefings today. I also welcome the participation of the Permanent Representative of Yemen in the meeting. I would like to make three points.

First, this month marks one year since the first wave of unlawful and arbitrary detentions of diplomatic staff, UN and NGO personnel and humanitarian workers by the Houthis in June 2024, followed by a number of similar waves of prolonged detentions. We reiterate in the strongest possible terms our call for the immediate and unconditional release of all arbitrarily detained personnel.

The tragic death under Houthi detention of a member of the World Food Programme (WFP) on February this year remains unanswered. We reiterate our call for the immediate, transparent and thorough investigation of this terrible event.

The recent press statement issued by this Council on June 5<sup>th</sup> is a unified and unequivocal message of condemnation of these detentions and a strong demand for the immediate release of all detainees.

Humanitarian workers face increasing violence and threats to their security. Houthi arbitrary detentions have aggravated the security conditions, thus affecting the delivery of humanitarian assistance to a population devastated by dire living conditions.

It is of outmost importance that the UN humanitarian assistance and protection services continue without disruption, by reinforcing the funding capacity and adaptability of the Yemen Humanitarian Needs and Response Plan of 2025, and identifying priorities for action.

We strongly endorsed the recent EU decision to contribute 80 million euros in EU humanitarian funding for Yemen in 2025, as announced at the recent 7<sup>th</sup> Humanitarian Senior Officials meeting, which took place this May in Brussels. We also echo the recent call of 116 UN agencies and international and national NGOs operating in Yemen for urgent and collective action.

Second, the security situation in the Red Sea region remains fragile. The threat of Houthis' aggressiveness is still present, thus sustaining a constant risk to freedom of navigation and

maritime security in the region. Consequently, merchant and commercial vessels continue to divert through alternative maritime shipping corridors, making the Red Sea region as one of the most disrupted maritime trade routes globally.

Greece remains committed to safeguarding maritime security and freedom of navigation in the region of the Red Sea, through the EU Naval Operation ASPIDES, with full respect to its defensive posture.

This instability is further exacerbated by the illegal arms flow and reinforcement of Houthi capabilities, in terms of weaponry, advanced technology and training, in violation of the arms embargo regime, established with UNSC Res. 2216.

In this context, we underline the importance of appointing with no further delay the fifth member of the 2140 Committee Panel of Experts, with the role of monitoring and assessing the arms flow in the region. This is an essential part of the Panel's work.

We further stress the need for the reinforcement of UNVIM's operational capacity in upholding the arms embargo regime.

We are also deeply concerned about the stockpiling of weaponry by the Houthis and the militarization of civilian areas, in violation of international humanitarian law and the obligation to protect civilian population that may endanger the safety of residential areas and lead to extended civilian casualties.

Third, maritime security in the Red Sea region cannot be attained without a sustainable and long-lasting political solution to the Yemeni conflict.

In concluding Madame President,

We reiterate our unwavering support for the SG Special Envoy H. Grundberg and his persistent efforts to engage all relevant actors to a peace negotiation dialogue, through an inclusive Yemeni-led and Yemeni-owned political process under the UN auspices, fully respecting the sovereignty, territorial integrity and unity of Yemen. Also, women's full and indiscriminate participation to this process remains vital.

I thank you.