



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



Security Council Briefing on Syria 21 August 2025

Greece's Statement delivered
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Thank you, Mr. President.

I would also like to thank Special Envoy, Geir Pedersen, as well as Under-Secretary General Tom Fletcher for their detailed briefings and I welcome the presence of the representative of Syria to this meeting.

Mr. President, I wish to highlight the three following points today:

First, Syria's volatile security landscape requires urgent action. The Council's Presidential Statement of August 10, strongly condemned the horrific violence in Suwaida, including mass killings and the displacement of nearly 192,000 people. The escalation of local sectarian clashes was followed by disturbing reports of serious violations, including by security forces affiliated to the interim authorities, against Druze civilians. We were appalled by the shocking footage of medical staff being forced to kneel by armed men in military uniform inside a hospital in Suwaida, with one reportedly executed.

Following the fragile ceasefire and the announced withdrawal of security forces, we take note of the interim presidency's condemnation of abuses and its pledge of accountability. We expect this process to be credible, swift, transparent, impartial, and effective.

Yet the overall security situation remains precarious. The terrorist threat persists, with sporadic bombings, including the recent attack on the Mar Elias Orthodox Church in Damascus, and earlier sectarian violence along the Syrian coast. We understand that the Committee for Investigation and Fact-Finding into those events has submitted its report to the Syrian Presidency. We expect its contents to be shared with this Council, or made public, to ensure justice for victims and accountability for perpetrators, irrespective of affiliation and in line with international laws and standards.

We are further alarmed by the findings of the UN Commission of Inquiry of the Human Rights Council, whose August 11 report points to violations amounting to potential war crimes committed by both pro-former government fighters and interim government forces.

In light of this, we call on the interim authorities to ensure full accountability and justice, so that all Syrians—regardless of ethnic, religious, or cultural background—can feel safe and protected.

And this brings me to my second point. An inclusive political transition under UNSC Resolution 2254 is essential.

The formation of a People's Assembly is a crucial step in Syria's political transition. We welcome the announcement of parliamentary elections in September, provided all Syrians can participate as candidates and voters—including Christians, Alawites, Druze, Bedouin, and, importantly, women.

The recent sectarian violence has reinforced calls for a more democratic and inclusive Syria. Syria's new Constitution must guarantee democracy, inclusivity, justice, and fair representation for all religious and ethnic groups and communities, as the current Constitutional Declaration remains insufficient. The September elections will be an important test in this regard, so as to enhance internal cohesion and increase international support to the efforts of the transitional Government to promote stability and prosperity.

Mr. President,

As the Greek Foreign Minister repeated yesterday, on the occasion of his constructive meeting with his Syrian counterpart in Athens, Greece reaffirms its commitment to the sovereignty, independence, unity, and territorial integrity of Syria, urging all states to respect these principles. A Syria where all Syrians will feel safe. The March 10 agreement between Damascus and the Syrian Democratic Forces in the North-East gives hope, despite the challenges for its implementation. We call on all parties to act in a spirit of compromise and on regional actors to refrain from incitement or threats of intervention.

Similarly, the integration of all armed groups into the national security and military forces, alongside a sustainable solution to the issue of foreign fighters, is indispensable for establishing stability and preventing radicalisation. Extremist and terrorist elements can have no place in Syria's future.

Mr President,

My third point. All this transpires against the backdrop of a truly precarious humanitarian situation, only aggravated by the climate crisis.

As OCHA and Syrian civil society representatives have noted, 16.5 million Syrians are in need of humanitarian assistance. Food and water insecurity is worsening, aggravated by the most severe drought in 36 years and devastating wildfires.

As a fellow Mediterranean country, also facing the impacts of climate change, Greece expresses full solidarity with the Syrian people. We stress the need to reinforce the international humanitarian response and Greece has decided to engage with the Interim Syrian Authorities to assist Syria with expertise and best practices transfer in building its capacities on civil protection and against natural disasters.

Equally, Greece is ready to support any efforts for an inclusive and representative political system and to promote stability and integration in the Eastern Mediterranean region.

In the same spirit, the European Union swiftly lifted sanctions under a gradual, conditional, and reversible approach to support Syria. This policy will continue to be guided by progress on accountability, inclusivity, and respect for international law, including the International Law of the Sea.

In conclusion, Mr. President,

Greece reiterates its support and solidarity with the Syrian people as they strive to turn the page from a dark chapter towards a brighter future. This can only be achieved through a genuinely inclusive political transition, with credible accountability and security for all.

We will continue to support the UN and the Office of the Special Envoy in their efforts to achieve these goals.

I thank you.