



PERMANENT MISSION OF GREECE
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Security Council Briefing on the situation in the Middle East (Syria) 18 December 2025

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

I also thank USG Rosemary DiCarlo and ASG Joyce Msuya for their briefings, as well as Ms. Mariam Jalabi for her pertinent statement and clear messages.

Mr. President,

The recent historic visit of this Council to Syria, for the first time since its founding in 1945, sent a strong signal of support for Syria's reintegration into the international community. It also demonstrated the UN's commitment in this regard.

As Syria has embarked on the initial phases of post-civil war reconstruction, the first anniversary since Assad's fall should be translated into concrete steps toward its full recovery and reestablishment on the international stage. The UN, can act as a reliable partner to the Syrian Authorities, and play a crucial role in making such vision a reality. In this respect, we look forward to the imminent appointment of a new Special Envoy and we support the relocation of his Office from Geneva to Damascus.

Mr. President,

Turning the page in the Syrian Arab Republic requires the full protection and inclusion of all its society components. A nation-wide reconciliation presupposes that all voices will be heard; all will be fairly represented; and all will be equally protected. Muslims, Alawites, Christians, Druze, and Kurds deserve the same right of equal representation and the same chance to peace. In this vein, we look forward for the remaining parliamentary seats to compensate for the underrepresented communities, including women, ethnic and religious representatives.

Similarly, it is beyond doubt that extremism cannot stain the path to peace and security and should be addressed accordingly. It is crucial to ensure accountability for those who committed criminal acts. We condemn the recent attack on the US military convoy in

Syria, resulting in the death of two soldiers and one civilian. Syria's accession to the anti-ISIS coalition, a mostly welcome step, must be translated into targeted measures to uproot radicalism. Syrians cannot afford another descent into violence stemming from inside the country or abroad.

In this respect, we express concern about the recent incidents in Homs. We also regret the tragic loss of 13 civilians, including women and children, on November 28 in the town of Beit Jinn, as a violation of international humanitarian law. We express our sincere condolences to the families of the victims.

On a positive note, we are encouraged by certain steps, such as the conduct of the first trial of suspects linked to the deadly coastal violence; the detention of security and military personnel for perpetrating sectarian attacks in Sweida; as well as the overtures made by President Al Sharaa to the Christian community, hoping that they will translate into concrete results.

We look forward to the publication of the Syrian Commission's report by the end of this year. Accountability and transitional justice should remain a top priority. In parallel, security sector reform is a prerequisite for stability.

The March 10 agreement between the SDF and Damascus must be implemented in good faith, without foreign interference; and the situation in the North East must not be used as a pretext for foreign actors to intervene in Syria's domestic affairs.

Last but not least, the path to recovery requires expedited international support. Such support is urgently needed as the humanitarian situation across Syria is exacerbated by harsh winter conditions, high levels of malnutrition and significant funding constraints. Greece has financially contributed, and will continue to do so, to various humanitarian fields. Moreover, we have repeatedly expressed our readiness to stand by the Syrians and actively participate in the recovery of the country.

In concluding, Mr. President,

Inclusivity, accountability and respect of Syria's sovereignty, independence and territorial integrity constitute key-elements to putting the country back on the track of stability and prosperity. The Council's visit to Syria served as a testament to the progress achieved, as well as an expression of trust in the new Syrian Government and all Syrians.

We look forward to further strengthening our relations with Damascus and we remain committed to the vision of a prosperous Syria, worthy of the aspirations of the Syrian people, where the Rule of Law and human rights are respected and where all feel safe and equal.

I thank you.