



PERMANENT MISSION OF GREECE
TO THE UNITED NATIONS



**Security Council Meeting on
the situation in the Middle East, including the Palestinian Question
Wednesday 18 February 2026**

Greece's Statement delivered
by H.E. Ms. Aglaia Balta
Permanent Representative of Greece to the United Nations

Thank you, Mr. President,

I would like to thank the Under-Secretary-General, Rosemary DiCarlo, for her thorough briefing, as well as civil society representatives Heba Casas and Adapt Amir for their insightful remarks.

Excellencies, dear colleagues,

We meet today at a critical juncture – where a fragile peace provides the foundation upon which lasting relief and reconstruction can be built. Greece has been among those consistent voices in this Council calling for a structured pathway towards peace. The ceasefire must be sustained and consolidated; governance arrangements must be legitimate and durable; reconstruction must be comprehensive and well-coordinated.

In this direction, we have strongly supported the Comprehensive Plan for Gaza, endorsed by Security Council Resolution 2803 (2025) and in this context Greece will attend as an observer the inaugural meeting of the Board of Peace for Gaza tomorrow. We have also welcomed the nomination of a Palestinian National Committee for the Administration of Gaza, with the support of the Presidency of the Palestinian Authority. Any transitional framework must reinforce the role of the Palestinian Authority, as the legitimate representative of the Palestinian people.

The full disarmament of Hamas and of all other armed groups must be addressed urgently and effectively. Durable peace requires Israel's long-term security and the full protection of Israeli citizens, as well as the tackling of hate-speech and anti-semitic rhetoric. At the same time, the legitimate governance structures, embedded in a broader and credible political horizon for Palestinians is crucial.

Authorizing the International Stabilization Force and defining its mandate and the operational modalities is another milestone towards achieving peace and building the

“day-after” in Gaza. Reconstruction plans, to be effective, must be coordinated internationally and carried out with transparency and accountability.

The central role of the Palestinian National Committee, the Palestinian Authority and key regional partners is crucial in this regard.

At the same time, the humanitarian aspect should be at the forefront of a credible political process. While we acknowledge improvements on the humanitarian front, including the partial reopening of the Rafah crossing, significant challenges still persist. The toll of the conflict remains high, having left hospitals and infrastructure severely damaged and widespread deprivation. We reiterate our call for the unimpeded, large and at scale humanitarian access, including via the Cyprus Maritime Corridor.

Greece is ready to contribute in humanitarian and early recovery initiatives, namely in those that can have an immediate positive impact on the ground, such as rubble removal and housing, aiming to actively ameliorate the living conditions of the population. Furthermore, we are ready to allocate a substantial financial contribution toward hospital units in East Jerusalem, through the PEGASE EU mechanism.

Mr. President,

Beyond Gaza, we are deeply concerned over the recent measures aiming at increasing control across the West Bank and East Jerusalem. We oppose any plan to annex the West Bank, as such actions, coupled with rising settler violence, including against Christian communities, undermine the prospects of a negotiated Two-State Solution. As stated by Minister Gerapetritis, Gaza and the West Bank are a single, indivisible territorial unit for a future Palestinian state.

An empowered and reformed Palestinian Authority is a credible partner for Peace and an essential precondition for the viable implementation of the two-state solution. We acknowledge the ongoing efforts by the Palestinian Authority to undertake reforms and to build institutional capacity. Continued financial and political backing, including through the release of withheld tax revenues, avoiding its fiscal collapse, is necessary to ensure the success of these efforts. Last but not least, the preservation and respect of the Status Quo of the Holy Sites in Jerusalem, a city with diverse cultural and religious mosaic, is of paramount importance.

In closing, Mr. President,

The path to peace remains narrow — yet it is the only way forward. Greece is committed to working with all members of this Council, with the United Nations, and with regional partners to turn commitments into action. So that peace becomes a reality. A negotiated, just, and lasting peace based on the two-State solution, the NY Declaration and the

relevant UNSC Resolutions, in which Israel and a viable and sovereign Palestine coexist side by side, in peace, mutual recognition and security, is the only way forward.

I thank you.