



PERMANENT MISSION OF GREECE
TO THE UNITED NATIONS



UN Security Council meeting on the situation in the Middle East (Lebanon) 31 March 2026

Statement of Greece delivered
by H.E. Ambassador Aglaia Balta
Permanent Representative of Greece to the United Nations, New York

Thank you, Mr. President.

I also wish to thank USG Lacroix, USG Fletcher and ASG Khiari for their briefings.

Colleagues,

We gather today at a moment of profound sorrow and grave concern, as the ongoing conflagration in Lebanon has not spared UNIFIL's Blue Helmets. Fully echoing the Secretary-General's latest statement, Greece strongly condemns the recent killing of three Indonesian UNIFIL peacekeepers amidst heavy firing. We express our condolences to the families of the fallen peacekeepers and to our Indonesian colleagues.

This incident is tragically added to a series of violent attacks against UN personnel, including the injuring of Ghanaian Blue Helmets earlier this month and a Polish one a couple of days ago. Attacks against UN personnel are unacceptable, they constitute grave violations of International Humanitarian Law and of UNSC Res 1701 and must immediately stop. The safety and security of peacekeepers is non-negotiable. We call for a thorough investigation and accountability for this incident.

Mr. President,

Lebanon continues to pay the price of a conflict it neither chose nor can afford. We strongly condemn, once again, Hezbollah's attacks, in support of the Iranian regime, against Israel, which triggered a dangerous round of regional escalation. These attacks severely undermine the Lebanese Government's efforts to restore its exclusive control over arms across the country. Restoring the State monopoly over arms throughout the country is an essential prerequisite for sustainable peace and security, for Lebanon, Israel and the region.

In this regard, we commend the historic and courageous decision of the Lebanese Council of Ministers to ban Hezbollah's military activities. This is a step in the right direction, demonstrating the Lebanese Government's willingness to deal with outstanding issues and deserves the full support of the international community. Lebanon should not stand alone.



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Greece fully supports the efforts of President Aoun and of the Lebanese Government to forge strong State institutions. Empowering the LAF is essential for ensuring Lebanese sovereignty. Greece already bilaterally assists Lebanon including the LAF and we stand ready to participate in the international Conference in Paris as soon as conditions allow.

We also recognize Israel's right to self-defense. Communities in Northern Israel have suffered terribly due to Hezbollah's attacks since October 2023. However, any further escalation must be avoided. We call for maximum restraint and we are opposed to protracted ground operations. The expansion of Israel's military operations into Beirut and across Lebanon's territory aggravates the already fragile security situation.

Greece reaffirms its support for the territorial integrity, sovereignty and political independence of Lebanon. Full respect for Resolution 1701 and the November 2024 ceasefire agreement is essential in this regard.

Mr. President,

Civilians are bearing the heaviest burden of this crisis. More than one point two/1.2 million people have been displaced, many lives have perished and thousands have been severely injured. The risk of broader regional destabilization, including of additional refugee flows, is growing. Civilian infrastructure, including airports, ports and bridges across the country, do not constitute legitimate targets.

Journalists, humanitarian and healthcare workers must be protected at all times and in all circumstances. We also express our condolences to the families of the victims and our solidarity to those impacted by this war. International humanitarian law must be upheld by all parties, everywhere and at all times.

Standing in full solidarity with the Lebanese people, Greece immediately responded to OCHA's Flash Appeal, allocating a substantial financial contribution. We are also finalizing our contribution to strengthening Lebanon's health sector. At the same time, the tireless efforts of humanitarian actors on the ground, including UN Agencies and UNRWA, cannot be overlooked. Their work, under extremely difficult and dangerous conditions, is indispensable as it is commendable.



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Mr. President,

Any further escalation risks the lives of civilians - who have not opted for this conflict; It endangers UN personnel – who are striving to uphold peace at the risk of their own safety; And it severely undermines Lebanon’s sovereignty, territorial integrity, and political independence — which we strive to preserve.

We commend the willingness of the Lebanese leadership to pursue direct political negotiations with Israel. This is a moment for responsibility and de-escalation. Lebanon deserves a future of peace, security, and dignity — free from external interference and internal division. Greece will stand by its side in that effort.

I thank you.