



PERMANENT MISSION OF GREECE
TO THE UNITED NATIONS



**Security Council meeting on the situation in the Middle East (Iran)
28 February 2026**

Greece's Statement delivered
by Ambassador Aglaia Balta
Permanent Representative of Greece to the United Nations, New York

Thank you, Mr. President for convening this meeting at such a short notice.

I would like also to thank the Secretary General for his briefing and his messages on respecting the principles of the UN Charter and his calling on de-escalation and a peaceful settlement of the situation.

Mr. President,

We express our deep concern following today's escalation. Our aim should be to return to substantial negotiations towards a peaceful settlement, in line with international law and the UN Charter. As the Council meets in this critical moment, we would like to stress the following.

First, restraint is imperative. The risk for a wider regional confrontation, with potentially grave consequences for international peace and security, is real. Absent a swift diplomatic solution, we might now face the consequences of a prolonged crisis. All parties must therefore exercise restraint, prevent a further spiral of violence and work urgently to reopen credible channels of dialogue.

Our Prime Minister and Minister for Foreign Affairs are in constant contact with our partners in the region. We strongly condemn the Iranian strikes in Bahrain, Jordan, Kuwait, Qatar, Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates.

Second, Greece has consistently expressed its strong concern regarding Iran's nuclear programme. Iran must never be allowed to acquire a nuclear weapon. The accumulation of significant quantities of uranium enriched up to 60 percent by a non-nuclear-weapon State, raises serious proliferation concerns and has no credible civilian justification. Full cooperation with the IAEA and strict adherence to international obligations are indispensable. It is widely believed that strong, permanent and verifiable oversight on Iran's nuclear and ballistic programs is a precondition for stability in the region.

Diplomacy, grounded in verification and transparency, remains the only sustainable path forward.

Third, maritime security in the Gulf, the Strait of Hormuz and the Red Sea must be fully respected by all sides. Even more now of all times, stability is of the utmost importance. We urge Iran and its allies in the region to refrain from any retaliatory action that could endanger freedom of navigation, threaten commercial shipping, or further destabilize global energy and trade flows, constituting a blatant violation of the international law of the Sea, as reflected in UNCLOS.

Fourth, the protection of civilians and respect for international law must remain absolute priorities. Adherence by all Member States to the UN Charter, international humanitarian law, and human rights law becomes even more critical. Civilians must not bear the cost of military escalation. The humanitarian consequences of further confrontation could be severe.

In closing, Mr. President,

The stakes for regional and global peace are exceptionally high. We urge Iran to immediately engage in meaningful and good faith negotiations with a view to achieving a durable, negotiated solution. Dialogue and diplomatic engagement aimed at restoring stability and providing credible security assurances for all concerned must prevail. Failure is not an option.

I thank you.