



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



**Security Council meeting on the situation in the Middle East (Syria)
22 April 2026**

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

Thank you, Madame President.

I wish to thank the Deputy Special Envoy, Mr. Cordone, and reiterate, once again, our strong support for the prompt establishment of the Office of the Special Envoy in Damascus.

I would also like to thank USG Mr. Fletcher and CAAC SRSG Mrs. Frazier for their briefings. Their recent visits to Syria reaffirm the UN's role as a reliable and trusted partner of the Syrian government. We thank them for their work and we strongly encourage Syria to benefit from the UN's expertise.

Madame President,

Amid increased regional volatility, the Syrian leadership has shown restraint.

Following Hezbollah's triggering of another round of escalation between Israel and Lebanon, Syria has maintained a restrained posture – which we commend, given that Syria's stability and prosperity are essential for the stability of the broader region.

Achieving such stability and prosperity requires, as we have stressed before, an inclusive, Syrian-led and Syrian-owned political process. All Syrians, including women and regardless of ethnicity or religion, must be ensured protection and meaningful participation in political affairs, governance, administration and the security sector. Without inclusivity and balanced representation, peace will remain fragile and incomplete and the prospect of recovery could be undermined.

We welcome steps toward inclusivity, including the recognition of Kurdish identity. Full implementation of the agreement between Damascus and the SDF must now follow. All communities, including the Kurds, should see their rights protected in the country's legal system.

However, substantial work is still pending as the latest incidents in the predominantly Greek-Orthodox city of Al Suqailabiya showed. We are particularly concerned, since this is the second case of violence against the Greek Orthodox community, following last year's terrorist attack on the Greek Orthodox Church of Mar Elias.

Credible transitional justice and accountability must lie at the heart of all efforts towards inclusivity. Relevant international mechanisms, such as the “Triple IM” and the Independent Institution on Missing Persons, can offer valuable expertise in this regard. We strongly encourage the Syrian government to fully engage with these mechanisms and accept the “Triple IIM’ establishment in Damascus. Work on transitional justice needs to be undertaken in collaboration with the UN and in accordance with international standards.

At the same time, a sustainable path toward peace requires counterterrorism efforts coupled with reforms in the security sector. Hence, the security of the remaining ISIS detention facilities must be ensured. The situation on the ground must be carefully monitored amid reports of escapes or liberations of detainees. We would appreciate an official update by the Syrian government in this regard.

Mr. President,

A future of long-term stability in Syria also requires a solution to the humanitarian crisis. As Mr. Fletcher underlined, the humanitarian situation remains severe, with almost 16 million people in urgent need of assistance. Recent flooding has worsened conditions and displaced more families, while 4 children have been tragically killed; refugees arriving from Lebanon have added further pressure; basic services continue to erode. The recent launch of the 2026 Humanitarian Needs and Response Plan in Damascus underscores the scale of needs and the urgency of recovery. We welcome this initiative and call on the international community to support it.

Greece has already contributed to various humanitarian projects for Syria through international organizations and partners. We are ready to stand by the Syrian people and actively participate in the recovery of the country, also by re-establishing our trade and investment relations and providing capacity building.

In addition, as highlighted by SRSF Ms. Frazier, the protection of children is of critical importance. The situation in Al Hol and Al Roj camps remains deeply concerning. Children there face poor conditions, limited education, and serious risks of radicalization. Unexploded ordnance continues to threaten lives, underscoring the importance of demining efforts. We are looking into providing support to Syria in this regard.

Last but not least, Syria’s reintegration into the international community depends on respect of international law and fostering peaceful relations with regional countries and international partners. At the same time, Syria’s sovereignty, unity and territorial integrity must be fully respected.

The EU, a critical partner of the Syrian government, plans to launch a High-Level Political Dialogue with the Syria’s authorities on May 11. We welcome this initiative and look forward to strengthening our relations with Syria, within the EU framework, and we are ready to contribute to this end.

In conclusion, Mr. President,

Greece remains 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.