



PERMANENT MISSION OF GREECE
TO THE UNITED NATIONS



**Security Council High Level Briefing on Cooperation
between the United Nations and the Gulf Cooperation Council
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Statement of Greece delivered
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Thank you, Mr. President.

We extend our sincere congratulations, Your Excellency, Minister Al-Zayani on the assumption of the Presidency in April. We wish the Kingdom of Bahrain every success and reaffirm our full cooperation.

On this occasion, I would like to thank and congratulate the US for a very successful Presidency in the month of March.

Let me also thank ASG Khiari and warmly welcome the Secretary-General of the Gulf Cooperation Council, H.E. Jasem Mohamed AlBudaiwi.

Today's meeting is both timely and necessary. For we gather at a moment when the Middle East stands at a crossroads — once again.

From the very beginning, Greece has unequivocally condemned the Iranian attacks against members of the GCC, Jordan and elsewhere. We stand in full solidarity with our partners in the region. We were also one of the first member states to co-sponsor Resolution 2817, alongside an unprecedented number of countries. Such actions violate the principles of sovereignty and territorial integrity. They shake the architecture of regional stability.

At the same time, attacks against civilians and civilian infrastructure violate international humanitarian law. We condemn such attacks and we underline, once again, the need for maximum restraint. We call for immediate de-escalation from all sides that will create the conditions for a return to dialogue and ultimately negotiations. We also underscore the critical importance of maritime security and freedom of navigation.

Strategic international waterways, including the Strait of Hormuz, are lifelines for the global trade and energy supply. Any disruption constitutes a serious threat to international peace and security. Compliance with the UN Charter and international law, including the international Law of the Sea, as reflected in the UNCLOS, must remain a top-shared priority in this regard. Attention must be given to diplomacy and international efforts to de-escalate and diffuse tensions in the Strait of Hormuz and the wider conflict.

Mr. President,

Since its establishment, the GCC has cultivated political credibility. It has contributed to various mediation efforts and humanitarian engagement in a way that complements and reinforces the work of the United Nations. Hence, it is evident that the Security Council although carrying the primary responsibility for the maintenance of international peace and security, is well complemented by the GCC.

Our cooperation rests on solid foundations: respect for international law, the UN Charter and the independence, sovereignty and territorial integrity of States, in all the serious challenges to international peace and security we are facing, from Gaza and Iran to Ukraine. As envisioned in the UN Charter, such cooperation with regional organizations is essential. It provides the bridge between the global vision of UN Charter principles and regional conditions and reality.

Mr. President,

My country's ties with the Arab world are deep and enduring. They are rooted in history, enriched by culture, and strengthened through cooperation. Serving on this Council, alongside Bahrain, we remain committed to acting as a voice for dialogue, diplomacy and peace. There is vast potential in further strengthening UN–GCC cooperation in various fields, such as conflict prevention, mediation, counter-terrorism, and humanitarian response.

But also beyond these, in empowering women as agents of peace; in giving youth a stake in stability; in addressing food, water, and environmental challenges as drivers of security.

The partnership between the UN and the GCC is a promise that multilateralism can deliver and that peace, however distant it may seem, remains within reach.

Greece has long stood as a committed advocate of multilateralism and international law. We believe that peace, like trust, is built jointly. And we aim to strengthen UN-GCC cooperation further to this end.

In conclusion, Greece reiterates its call for restraint, for dialogue, and for diplomacy at a time when neither the Arab region nor the world can afford another prolonged spiral of violence. It is clear that if we act together, we can move from crisis management to peacebuilding. For in the end, peace is not forged in isolation. It is forged through cooperation.

Thank you.