



PERMANENT MISSION OF GREECE
TO THE UNITED NATIONS



**Security Council High Level Briefing on Cooperation
between the United Nations and the League of Arab States
Thursday 2 April 2026**

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

Thank you, Mr. President.

Let me start by welcoming Mr. Aboul Gheit, Secretary-General of the League of Arab States, and thank Mr. Khaled Khiari for his thorough briefing.

My country and the Arab world share deep and traditional ties of friendship and partnership. Geography and culture have tied us throughout history. Our shared vision for regional prosperity and lasting peace will continue to guide and strengthen our partnership into the future. In this context, we remain committed to advancing enhanced cooperation between the Security Council and the League of Arab states, in full accordance with Chapter VIII of the United Nations Charter.

Your excellency, Colleagues,

An overview of the volatility and turmoil in the Middle East provides ample evidence for the need for sustained engagement between the UN and the League of Arab States as pioneers of multilateral cooperation. No single actor can address today's mounting and increasingly complex security challenges —particularly in one of the world's most volatile regions, as we discussed this morning, addressing the cooperation between the UN and the Gulf Cooperation Council. We thus fully support deepening the cooperation between the United Nations and the League of Arab States and are delighted to serve alongside Bahrain and Somalia, members of the League, in the Security Council.

Let me start by reaffirming also in this format and in no uncertain terms and without ambiguity our strong condemnation of the recent attacks against the Gulf states.

Turning to the Middle East Peace Question and following up on the breakthrough of the adoption of the Comprehensive 20-Point Peace Plan, it is imperative that we follow through with the implementation of UN Security Council Resolution 2803. Its provisions must be translated into concrete action on the ground, with full respect for international humanitarian law and the protection of civilians. The decommissioning of Hamas and

other armed groups, the unhindered delivery of humanitarian aid at scale and the revival of a credible political process towards the realization of a Two-State solution in line with relevant UN Resolutions and the NY Declaration, all remain essential in laying the groundwork for a sustainable peace. The Status Quo of Holy Sites in Jerusalem must be respected under all circumstances. We were concerned that the Latin Patriarch of Jerusalem was prevented from entering the Church of the Holy Sepulcher to celebrate Catholic Palm Sunday. And we hope that the Israeli authorities will guarantee an adequate process in view of upcoming Easter celebrations.

Turning to Lebanon, one comes across a country facing an acute risk of being trapped in the flames of the regional escalation. We fully condemn Hezbollah's reckless and unjustifiable attacks against Israel which caused a broader escalation in Lebanon. Greece calls for maximum restraint to prevail and is opposed to protracted ground operations. We call for the respect of all civilians, including journalists and medical personnel, who must be protected at all times. And call on Israel to withdraw from southern Lebanon within a reasonable time-frame in the immediate future. Strengthening Lebanese State Institutions, including the Lebanese Armed Forces is a pre-requisite for consolidating the sovereignty of Lebanon throughout the country and ensuring long-term security for both Lebanon and Israel. We also condemn in the strongest possible terms the targeting of Peacekeepers, echoing the concern expressed by the Secretary General following the death of UNIFIL Blue Helmets.

Finally, Mr. President, Syria has certainly witnessed progress over the past year, albeit serious challenges remain, as the latest incidents in the predominantly Greek Orthodox city of Al Suqailabiya show. We have followed these incidents closely and with great concern. We note the Syrian Government's announcement of a thorough investigation and call for its swift implementation and presentation of the results. Greece fully supports a peaceful and inclusive transition that will safeguard the rights of all Syrians, irrespective of religious or ethnic background. Christians, in particular, remain a historic and integral part of Syria's diverse society, the recovery of which we are ready to support.

Mr. President,

Across this complex context —from Gaza and the West Bank, to Lebanon and Syria— our collective efforts must be guided by unity of purpose and strengthened cooperation. Sustained engagement with regional actors -important partners- including the League of Arab States, will be crucial to our efforts. We remain firmly committed to working with all Council members and with our partners in the League of Arab States to advance our common objective of promoting peace, security, and stability for all. Let us not miss this opportunity. The world is watching.

I thank you.