



PERMANENT MISSION OF GREECE  
TO THE UNITED NATIONS



**Security Council Open Debate  
on the situation in the Middle East, including the Palestinian Question  
Tuesday 28 April 2026**

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

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Thank you, Mr. President, and let me thank ASG Khaled Khiari and H.E. Mr. Espen Barth Eide, Minister of Foreign Affairs and Representative of the ad hoc Liaison Committee for their briefings, as well as Mr. Tony Blair, Member of the Executive Board of the Board of Peace, for his remarks and H.E. Ms Varsen Aghabekian, Minister of Foreign Affairs and Expatriates for her presence here today. We welcome also the presence of the Representative of Israel. We acknowledge and warmly welcome today's discussion which is timely and important.

In relation to Iran, we welcome the ceasefire in the hostilities and express the hope that it will be sustained. Our objective must remain to return to the negotiating table with a view to achieving a peaceful settlement on all issues, while fully ensuring that transit passage through the Strait of Hormuz will be unimpeded and safeguarded in accordance with international law and the law of the sea as reflected in UNCLOS. I seize this opportunity to reaffirm our solidarity with Bahrain and other Gulf nations, along with our strong condemnation of the illegal and unprovoked attacks against them.

Similarly, we hope that the most welcome extension of the cessation in hostilities to enable dialogue between Lebanon and Israel, will be consolidated. We commend the US mediation efforts and look forward to the success of the historic contacts between our two partners. Greece promptly stepped in for Lebanon in its hour of dire need, contributing humanitarian and development aid in a spirit of tangible solidarity. We fully stand behind the Lebanese President, Joseph Aoun, and the Lebanese leadership as it takes up a historic and daunting task. Greece will continue its steadfast support to the Lebanese state institutions, including the Lebanese Armed Forces. We express our deepest condolences to the families of the Indonesian and French peacekeepers, who paid the ultimate price while fulfilling their mandate. Attacks against UNIFIL are unacceptable and unequivocally condemned; they must stop.

Mr. President,

Perhaps away from the immediate gaze of the world, the situation in the West Bank and East Jerusalem is steadily deteriorating. The increasing and unprecedented settler violence targeting the Palestinian population, including Christian communities, is condemnable and must cease. We reaffirm the absolute primacy of international humanitarian law which must be respected at all times, and the protection of civilians — health workers and journalists notably among them.

Also, the preservation and respect of the Status Quo of the Holy Sites in Jerusalem is of paramount importance. In the meantime, we are gravely concerned by the continuing trends of imposed restrictions, settlement expansion, and accentuated forced displacement. We reject efforts to undermine the viability of a two-state solution, depriving the region of a peaceful prospect. Similarly, we reiterate our call for the release of Palestinian tax revenues being withheld, as the Palestinian Authority is on the financial brink. The health sector, including the East Jerusalem hospital network, also suffer greatly.

The West Bank and Gaza constitute a single, indivisible territorial unit for a future Palestinian state. Which brings me to Gaza, which, regrettably, features so frequently and intensely here in this chamber. We ought to seize the momentum introduced by the Comprehensive Peace Plan, endorsed by UNSC Resolution 2803 -which Greece supported- as Gaza transitions from conflict to a deeply challenging recovery. Governance arrangements must be legitimate and durable, while transitional structures should harmoniously complement existing institutions, avoiding parallel structures or undermining the Palestinian Authority. In this spirit, we welcomed the establishment of a liaison between the Palestinian Authority and the National Committee for the Administration of Gaza. We stress once again that Hamas and other armed groups must urgently and fully disarm, as addressing the legitimate security concerns of Israel is a key precondition for sustainable peace.

Similarly, we call for the sustainable, unimpeded and safe flow of humanitarian aid towards those in need in Gaza, highlighting the importance of efforts such as the Cyprus Maritime Humanitarian Corridor and the indispensable role that UNRWA does continue to play; despite the challenges, or the deplorable demolition of its facilities in East Jerusalem.

Mr. President,

As reaffirmed during the recent visit of the Palestinian Vice President in Athens, for Greece, the path ahead can only be a credible political process leading to a two-state solution allowing Palestinians and Israelis to live side by side in peace and security. As reaffirmed by the recent convening of the Global Alliance for the Implementation of the Two-State Solution in Brussels, and the New York Declaration, the international community fully backs this prospect. We must now work together to mold these strands of effort, into a coherent and collective vision for regional peace and prosperity.

I thank you.