



PERMANENT MISSION OF GREECE
TO THE UNITED NATIONS



Security Council Meeting on the situation in the Middle East (Yemen)

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Greece's Statement delivered

by Mr. Ioannis Stamatekos,

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Thank you, Mr. President,

I would like to thank Special Envoy Hans Grundberg and OCHA Director Eden Wosornu for their insightful briefings. I also welcome the participation of the Permanent Representative of Yemen in this meeting.

Mr. President,

I would like to raise the following points:

First, Yemen remains at the edge of plunging deeper into a protracted security and humanitarian crisis, exacerbated by regional instability, and severe humanitarian and socio-economic repercussions deriving from a prolonged conflict.

The Houthis' arbitrary decision to engage militarily against Israel, with the launch of ballistic missile and drone attacks in the Tel Aviv area is both deplorable and condemnable. It is imperative to safeguard Yemen from any further escalation that risks dragging the country into a regional conflict, thus endangering profoundly its prospects of stability, peace and humanitarian recovery.

Second, unimpeded passage of commercial and merchant vessels must be always safeguarded, thus keeping international maritime trade routes continuously open and safe. Freedom of navigation and maritime security in the Red Sea region remain critical all the more in light of prolonged disruptions in the Strait of Hormuz.

Houthis' persistent threats of imminent attacks against international commercial vessels transiting Bab al Mandeb and the Red Sea further aggravate an already fragile security environment, placing international shipping, global energy and food supply chains, as well as international trade stability at considerable risk.

EU Naval Operation ASPIDES, within its defensive mandate, plays a crucial role in safeguarding freedom of navigation in the Red Sea region and ensuring the protection of international shipping. Greece will continue to actively support the Operation and its objectives.

Third, the resumption of peace negotiations, aiming at a permanent and viable peace solution on the Yemeni-conflict is vital and long overdue.

There is no substitute to negotiation efforts for achieving a lasting and enduring peace, through an inclusive, Yemeni-led and Yemeni-owned political process, under the auspices of the UN, with full respect to the country's unity, sovereignty, independence and territorial integrity. In this context, we reiterate our unwavering support to Special Envoy Hans Grundberg and on his enduring efforts to revitalize the peace process.

Fourth, ensuring a safe and enabling humanitarian environment remains of high priority. We reiterate our strong call for the immediate and unconditional release of all United Nations personnel, humanitarian workers of non-governmental organizations, and diplomatic missions' staff, who continue to be arbitrarily detained by the Houthis. The protection of UN personnel and the inviolability of UN premises must be upheld at all times, in accordance with international law.

Lastly, Mr. President, we further welcome the 2026 Yemen Humanitarian Needs and Response Plan, which provides a focused and prioritized framework for delivering life-saving assistance and essential protection services to all Yemenis in need. Sustained and predictable financial support remains of essence in addressing the scale and urgency of the humanitarian crisis.

I thank you.