



PERMANENT MISSION OF GREECE  
TO THE UNITED NATIONS



**Security Council Meeting on the situation in the Middle East  
(attacks against the UAE)  
19 May 2026**

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

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Thank you, Mr. President,

Greece is deeply alarmed by the reported attack in the vicinity of the Barakah Nuclear Power Plant in the United Arab Emirates. Any strike affecting or endangering a nuclear facility constitutes an extremely serious escalation, with potentially nefarious consequences for civilian populations, regional security, the environment, energy security and international peace and security more broadly.

We unequivocally condemn this dangerous incident and express our full solidarity with the United Arab Emirates. We reiterate that the UAE did not seek to be drawn into this conflict and should therefore not face attacks. Nuclear installations, like all critical civilian infrastructure, must never be targeted, threatened or exposed to military risk. Attacks on or near such facilities, which are operating solely for civilian purposes, are unacceptable, violate international law and run directly counter to the obligation to protect civilians.

This incident comes at a time of heightened regional volatility, when the risk of miscalculation is already dangerously high. It therefore underlines the urgent need for all parties to exercise maximum restraint, refrain from further escalatory action and take immediate steps towards de-escalation. The region cannot afford a wider confrontation, nor can the international community ignore the risks created by attacks on civilian and energy infrastructure.

Greece reiterates its firm attachment to the UN Charter, international law and the principles of sovereignty, territorial integrity and non-use of force. We call for full respect for these principles and for the immediate cessation of any actions that destabilize the region, endanger civilians or threaten critical infrastructure in countries that should not be drawn into further escalation. The violation of territorial integrity is absolutely unacceptable.

At the same time, nuclear safety and security must remain an absolute priority. The protection of nuclear facilities is not only a national responsibility; it is a matter of international concern. Any military activity that risks compromising the safety or integrity of such installations must be avoided. In this regard, sustained cooperation with the IAEA and full respect for all relevant safeguards and nuclear safety obligations are indispensable.

Mr. President,

There is no military solution to the current crisis. The only sustainable path is one of restraint, dialogue and diplomacy, in accordance with international law and the UN Charter. Greece therefore calls on all parties to preserve the space for diplomatic efforts, avoid further provocation and work towards a peaceful resolution that addresses legitimate security concerns, while preventing further escalation.

At this critical juncture, the Security Council must send a clear and united message: attacks on or near nuclear facilities are unacceptable; civilians and critical infrastructure must be protected; freedom of navigation must be preserved; and de-escalation and dialogue must prevail to ensure regional stability and the regime of non-proliferation.

I thank you.