



PERMANENT MISSION OF GREECE
TO THE UNITED NATIONS



**Security Council High-Level Open Debate on
“Upholding the Purposes and Principles of the UN Charter and Strengthening the UN-
Centered International System”
26 May 2026**

Statement of Greece
delivered by Ambassador Ms. Aglaia Balta
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Thank you, Mr. President.

I wish to welcome His Excellency, Mr. Wang Yi, Minister for Foreign Affairs of China, and thank you for choosing as the theme of China’s signature event the topic of “Upholding the Purposes and Principles of the UN Charter and Strengthening the UN-Centered International System”. We also welcome the Secretary General and thank him for his insightful remarks.

Greece has been elected to serve as a non-permanent Member of the Council at a time when the multilateral system, with the United Nations at its center, is under serious strain. The persistent crisis in the Middle East, Russia’s illegal invasion of Ukraine, and the grave political and humanitarian crises in Sudan, the Sahel, Yemen, the DRC, Haiti and elsewhere, are deplorable manifestations of blatant violations of the core principles of the UN Charter, as well as of an alarming disdain of multilateralism.

Greece wishes to underline the following in relation to today’s debate:

First, in response to today’s multifaceted challenges, the need for full respect for international law and the UN Charter is more pressing than ever. It is the architecture that protects small states from the coercive power of larger ones. It is the framework through which we confront climate change, manage pandemics, and pursue sustainable

development. Put simply, it is the difference between a world governed by law and one governed by force.

In this regard, we are deeply concerned by the erosion of the Charter principles that we are witnessing. The prohibition on the use of force against the territorial integrity of states -enshrined in Article 2(4)- is not optional. It is neither a preference nor a recommendation; it is a cornerstone of the international system. When that principle is violated with impunity, or with the implicit acquiescence of the powerful, every member of this body is weakened. We therefore call upon all Council Members to recommit to the core principles of the UN Charter, particularly the peaceful settlement of disputes, respect for international law and the rules-based international order.

Second, any *à la carte* implementation of the Charter is completely unacceptable and we should all oppose any attempts at selective application and double standards. Let us not forget that the Charter serves as the legal foundation of this Council, which has been entrusted with the primary responsibility for the maintenance of international peace and security.

Third, a major achievement of multilateralism has been the conclusion of important multilateral treaties. In this context, we underscore the core international human rights conventions, the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea, particularly given its universal and unified character, and more recently, the BBNJ Agreement on the conservation and sustainable use of marine biodiversity.

Greece also wishes to underline the contribution of the International Court of Justice (ICJ) to the peaceful settlement of disputes, as well as the role of its advisory opinions in clarifying and consolidating international law.

Fourth, it is imperative that this Council unequivocally reaffirm UN's central role in international affairs. The UN's convening power is unmatched when it comes to facilitating discussions and serving as a forum for forging consensus on global issues, such as climate change, as well as on new and emerging challenges, including the global governance of artificial intelligence.

Last, Greece highlights the need to ensure a credible, effective, transparent and more representative Security Council. We support the long-overdue call for Security Council reform in order to enhance its authority, effectiveness, and inclusiveness. A Security Council that reflects the geopolitical realities of 1945 cannot fully serve the needs of a world of 193 member states in 2026.

My country supports meaningful reform: reform that enhances equitable geographical representation, increases transparency and accountability, and reduces the paralysis that allows atrocities to unfold while this body deliberates. Within the framework of the IGN process, my country has expressed its readiness to support any reform model that is fair, balanced, and capable of achieving the broadest possible consensus, with the objective of strengthening the United Nations as a whole.

To conclude, Mr. President,

Having recently celebrated the 80th anniversary of the creation of our Organization and the entry into force of the Charter, we should all reflect on its great accomplishments. We thus call for greater investment in preventive diplomacy and in the peacebuilding architecture that addresses conflict before it ignites. Prevention is not a weakness - it is wisdom, and it is far less costly, in lives and resources, than reconstruction.

Fundamentally, the world cannot afford to do without a UN-centered international system. It is not perfect, but the alternative - a fragmented world of competing spheres of influence, where might determines right - is one that history has already tested and proven to be catastrophic.

I thank you.