



PERMANENT MISSION OF GREECE
TO THE UNITED NATIONS



**Security Council Arria - formula meeting on the situation
in the West Bank and East Jerusalem
8 May 2026**

Statement of Greece delivered
by Mr. Ioannis Stamatekos,
Deputy Permanent Representative of Greece to the UN

Thank you Chair,

Let me start by thanking our briefers for their powerful briefings and testimonies.

Greece, alongside its fellow European members of the Security Council, co-organized today's Arria formula meeting, as it provides an excellent opportunity to shed light on an issue that is both pertinent and concerning. As our briefers demonstrated, the situation in the West Bank and East Jerusalem is deteriorating at an alarming pace. The rising and unprecedented settler violence targeting Palestinians, including Christian communities, is condemnable and needs to stop.

While we are encouraged by Israeli pledges to ensure accountability for settler violence incidents, we stress the importance of consistent investigations, follow-up and implementation of relevant decisions. Positive statements by Israeli officials should be translated into quicker action on the ground. Repeated incidents of violence against civilians, health workers and journalists remind us that international humanitarian law must be upheld without exception.

We are also gravely concerned by persisting trends of imposed restrictions on movement, illegal settlement expansion, and accentuated forced displacement—rendering life for Palestinians unbearable. We equally reject unilateral actions such as the E1 settlement expansion project, which not only undermine the prospects for a two-state solution, but also the prospects for sustainable peace in the region.

In addition, I wish to reiterate that the preservation and respect of the Status Quo of the Holy Sites in Jerusalem is of paramount importance to us.

Colleagues,

As highlighted by our briefers, the humanitarian and economic situation in the West Bank continues to worsen rapidly.

We reiterate our call for the release of withheld Palestinian tax revenues, as the Palestinian Authority is on the brink of financial collapse, a prospect that should be averted, as it also increases the risk of greater destabilization of the West Bank with serious ramifications on regional security.

We also reiterate our support to the Palestinian Authority, considering it is a credible for peace. We must acknowledge that the Palestinian Authority is taking tangible steps toward the implementation of important reforms, under adverse circumstances. We want the Palestinian Authority to succeed in its reform agenda and return to Gaza as soon as possible.

In addition, the health sector in the West Bank, including the East Jerusalem hospital network, is under tremendous strain, at a time when it is most needed. Responding to its acute needs, Greece is proud to financially contribute through the EU PEGASE mechanism in support of the East Jerusalem hospital network, calling also for an end to all restrictions imposed on its operations.

In conclusion, colleagues,

For Greece, the path ahead can only be through a credible political process leading to a two-state solution, allowing Palestinians and Israelis to live side by side in peace and security. In this vein, abiding by the one Palestine principle, we reiterate that the West Bank and Gaza constitute a single, indivisible territorial unit, for a future Palestinian state.

As reaffirmed by our meeting here today, the recent convening of the Global Alliance for the Implementation of the Two-State Solution in Brussels, and by the New York Declaration, the international community fully backs the promise of a two-state solution. We cannot turn away or cease to do our utmost for a reality of shared peace, security and prosperity in the Middle East.

I thank you.