



PERMANENT MISSION OF GREECE
TO THE UNITED NATIONS



**Security Council Open Debate on "Advancing political solutions in the Middle East:
mediation and dialogue for a lasting peace"
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Greece's statement delivered by
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Permanent Representative of Greece to the United Nations, New York

Thank you, Mr. President,

I wish to welcome you to the Council today. And welcome the Secretary-General's insightful assessment.

The persistence of conflict across the Middle East serves as a stark reminder of the urgent need to advance credible political solutions through dialogue, mediation, and diplomacy. Ongoing conflicts, humanitarian crises and rising regional tensions continue to inflict immense suffering on civilians and let us not forget the devastating effects they have on our children. Their consequences are increasingly felt beyond the region, affecting trade, energy security, and economic stability.

In this regard, we reaffirm our strong support for the efforts of the United Nations, together with regional partners, to reduce tensions and promote negotiated solutions. Effective mediation requires sustained political commitment from the concerned parties, regional support, and coordinated international engagement.

Mr. President,

Greece's vision for the Middle East is one anchored in peaceful coexistence, mutual respect, and regional cooperation, free from the scourge of terrorism or the threat of nuclear weapons.

When not overshadowed by the specter of nuclear weapons, but instead placed at the service of humanity, nuclear technology can illuminate homes, advance medicine, strengthen food security, and drive innovation. Its promise, however, must remain firmly anchored in the principles of the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons, the safeguards of the IAEA, and the broader framework that underpins international confidence and security.

Against this backdrop, Iran carries a particular responsibility. Confidence cannot be built on ambiguity; it requires openness, transparency, and sustained, verifiable cooperation with the Agency. The objective of diplomacy, however, should be more ambitious than merely avoiding proliferation. It should help create the conditions for a Middle East in which Iran, alongside its neighbors, contributes to a future shaped by cooperation, economic opportunity, and shared security, rather than recurring cycles of confrontation.

Perhaps most importantly, the vision of Middle East at peace starts with Israel and Palestine. Greece has consistently called for the implementation of the Two-State solution. Israel and a sovereign, viable Palestinian state must finally be able to live side by side in peace, security, and mutual recognition, in accordance with international law and relevant United Nations Resolutions.

Gaza must never again be allowed to serve as a platform for terrorism, including by Hamas; settler violence and settlement expansion in the West Bank are unacceptable and must cease immediately; last but not least, the preservation of and respect for the Status Quo of the Holy Sites in East Jerusalem remains of paramount importance.

Imagine a Lebanon which is fully relieved of the destabilizing threat posed by Hezbollah and other non-state armed actors, with the authority of its State restored across its entire territory. At the same time, Israel must refrain from further military operations and territorial incursions into Lebanese territory, which risk escalating tensions and undermining prospects for a durable political solution. The full implementation of the cessation of hostilities arrangements, the continuation of bilateral talks and the strengthening of the LAF and other state institutions is essential.

In Syria, a path toward stability, security, and prosperity can only emerge through a genuinely inclusive political process, in line with Resolution 2254. Our vision involves a Syria which is united and sovereign, whose territorial integrity is intact. A country where all Syrians, regardless of their ethnic or religious background, can participate in shaping their future.

In conclusion, Mr. President,

Mediation and dialogue remain the only pathways for achieving durable political solutions.

Our collective efforts must be guided by a shared and unwavering vision: of a Middle East where sovereign states coexist peacefully, terrorist organizations no longer undermine security and stability, disputes are resolved through diplomacy rather than force, and future generations can live in security, dignity, and prosperity.

The Security Council, but also the wider international community, share a common responsibility in advancing dialogue, reinforcing mediation efforts, and shaping a future defined by peace, stability, and cooperation. And let's be clear; all these necessary efforts will only bear fruits when based on international law, the UN Charter and the relevant Security Council resolutions that continue to be our only compass in this journey through rough waters. Time is of essence.

I thank you.