



PERMANENT MISSION OF GREECE
TO THE UNITED NATIONS



**Security Council Meeting on
the situation in the Middle East, including the Palestinian question
Thursday 18 June 2026**

Greece's Statement delivered
by H.E. Ms. Aglaia Balta
Permanent Representative of Greece to the United Nations

Thank you, Madam President.

I wish to thank our briefers, USG Tom Fletcher for his briefing, as well as Bushra Khalidi, the Global Humanitarian Policy Lead of OXFAM, for her testimony.

As highlighted today, while some improvement is noted following the Comprehensive Peace Plan and Security Council Resolution 2803, the humanitarian track continues to fall short of what the situation. While it is positive that Gaza is not in the state of famine, humanitarian actors report that the aid entering Gaza is insufficient, while food of high nutritional value is scarce. The restrictions imposed on dual-use items also create a significant negative externality. All this, as medical evacuation and healthcare services to thousands of patients need to be urgently provided. The humanitarian crisis has obviously taken a devastating toll on children. Children continue to face immense suffering, including displacement, malnutrition, psychological trauma, without access to education, healthcare, clean water and other essential services. Their protection must remain at the forefront of all relief efforts.

Madam President,

We called for today's briefing because the provisions of the first phase of UN Security Council Resolution 2803 are yet to be fulfilled. The Council needs to be briefed on developments in Gaza, as frequently as necessary. On the one hand, disarming Hamas and all other armed groups remains imperative to stabilize Gaza. We fully support the efforts of High Representative Mladenov in that regard. In accordance with the principle of one authority, one law and one weapon, Hamas can have no role in the governance of Gaza. At the same time, this process is lengthy. Increasing delivery of humanitarian aid to Gaza at scale and proceeding with the implementation of early recovery projects, such as housing, water sewage, hospitals is urgent.

Greece is committed to engaging closely in the process, in close coordination with its European, Arab and Asian partners. We are ready to take part in discussions on the

Horizon Fund, so as to ensure a coordinated, transparent and impactful recovery effort in close cooperation with the Palestinian Authority. We are looking forward to the Palestine Donor Group meeting in Brussels next month.

Madam President,

In the midst of infectious diseases and malnutrition, an increased pace of humanitarian and commercial aid is urgently required as well as the opening of additional crossings. We call on Israel to take the necessary measures to redress the situation in close cooperation with UN Agencies. Similarly, the flow of humanitarian aid must remain unconditional, as it should be in principle. As pest infestation is evidently spreading, we cannot but recognize UNRWA and UNICEF's support to pesticide application efforts, also commending WHO's vaccination campaign.

At the same time, the situation in the rest of the OPTs is critical. West Bank and East Jerusalem are in the midst of increasing and unprecedented settler violence; continuous restrictions on movement, illegal settlement expansion, and forced displacement define the everyday life of Palestinians.

Madam President,

As highlighted last week in this very Chamber, during the Open Debate under your Presidency, it is only through dialogue, diplomacy and mediation that peace in the Middle East will become a reality. Our commitment to a peaceful Middle East must not waver. Diplomacy has delivered and it can deliver again, for the next generation of Palestinians in Gaza deserve more than mere survival.

A peaceful path ahead is possible only through the reinvigoration of a credible political process and a clear political horizon for the Palestinians; a process leading to a two-state solution, in accordance with UNSC 2803 and all relevant UN Resolutions, in line with the NY Declaration as endorsed by the overwhelming majority of the international community that seeks to deliver a Middle East where people live in dignity, security and peace.

I thank you.