



PERMANENT MISSION OF GREECE
TO THE UNITED NATIONS



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

Thank you, Madame President,

I thank the Deputy Special Envoy, Mr. Cordone, and the ASG, Indrika Ratwatte, for their valuable briefings.

Amid heightened regional volatility, the Syrian leadership has thus far displayed restraint. A stable and sovereign Syria is a key factor of stability for the Eastern Mediterranean and the wider region. Achieving Syria's stability requires inclusive Syrian-led and Syrian-owned political process. To that end, the meaningful political participation of all Syrians, including women, and irrespective of ethnicity or religion, must be guaranteed. Pending the assignments of the remaining seats of the People's Assembly, we expect all segments of the Syrian society to be meaningfully represented in the country's institutions. We welcome all positive steps toward building a more inclusive transitional framework and encourage further concrete measures, aimed at fostering national reconciliation, strengthening state institutions and ensuring that all Syrians have a say in shaping their country's future.

Steadfastly and unequivocally rejecting any use of chemical weapons, we welcome the constructive cooperation between Syria's Transitional Government and the OPCW leadership. Continued engagement with the Organization remains essential to addressing all outstanding issues and ensuring full compliance with Syria's international obligations.

Transitional justice and accountability must be delivered in the same spirit; one of cooperation with the UN. The recent progress made, with the apprehension and trial of those accused of orchestrating the suffering of the Syrian people, is crucial for healing the wounds of the past and rebuilding trust. We stress that judicial processes must adhere to relevant international legal standards. Institutions such as the UN Commission of Inquiry, or the Triple-I M (IIIM), can offer valuable expertise and technical know-how. We encourage additional and closer cooperation between these international institutions and the Syrian Authorities.

The security situation in Sweida and the North-East remains a matter of concern and demands our continued vigilance. The UN Commission of Inquiry verified more than 1.030 killings committed in connection with the Sweida violence last year. This is a reminder that progress is fragile, demanding sustained effort on behalf of the Syrian Authorities to deliver justice, accountability and protection to all Syrians. Preventing renewed sectarian violence and ensuring accountability for abuses are indispensable prerequisites for sustainable peace. The Syrian authorities bear the primary responsibility

for protecting all communities without discrimination and ensuring equal citizenship for all Syrians.

Similarly, the agreement between the SDF and Damascus should be fully implemented, as it stands to contribute significantly to national cohesion and long-term stability. Turning to the situation in the South, we reiterate our full support for Syria's sovereignty and territorial integrity. Communities in the affected areas are entitled to live in safety and dignity, to return to and freely access their property without hindrance, and to pursue their livelihoods freely. Civilians, civilian infrastructure, and private property must be safeguarded at all times in accordance with international law. We therefore call for full respect of Syria's sovereignty and territorial integrity.

As our briefers highlighted, the humanitarian situation remains grave. Compounding the destruction of the civil war, the ongoing conflict in Iran has driven a spike in energy and food prices, with nearly 16 million Syrians in dire need of humanitarian assistance. This reality underscores the vital importance of the newly launched 2026 Humanitarian Peace and Response Plan. Sustained, safe and unhindered humanitarian access throughout Syria remains essential. Particular attention must be paid to the needs of children and young people, who endure substandard conditions and the threat of radicalization. Educational deprivation also remains severe due to infrastructure attacks and the hazard of unexploded ordnance.

In conclusion, Madame President, Greece remains steadfast to the vision of a peaceful, prosperous and inclusive Syria, worthy of the aspirations of the Syrian people, where the Rule of Law and respect for human rights rests in the forefront of priorities. The UN remains an indispensable partner for Syria along its path towards recovery and prosperity. Which is why we continue to advocate for the timely relocation of the Special Envoy's office in Damascus.

I thank you.