



PERMANENT MISSION OF GREECE  
TO THE UNITED NATIONS



**Security Council Briefing on  
the situation in the Middle East, including the Palestinian Question  
Monday 29 June 2026**

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

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Thank you, Madam President.

I would like to thank Deputy Special Coordinator, Ramiz Alakbarov for his briefing, as well as Mr. Itay Epshtain and Ms. Mariam Barghoutti for their remarks.

Madam President,

Greece was an early supporter of the Comprehensive Plan for Gaza, subsequently enshrined in Security Council Resolution 2803. The first phase of the Plan marked a welcome step forward, with early positive results. What is needed now is collective determination to translate progress into lasting impact. As ASG Tom Fletcher reminded us only days ago, the humanitarian reality on the ground remains catastrophic. We note, alongside Mr. Al Akbar the visit of the Greek Orthodox Patriarch and Latin Patriarch to the strip, a small ray of hope amidst an unimaginable, difficult reality.

While some progress has been achieved, the gap between needs and delivery remains wide and deeply concerning. Aid entering Gaza, including food of high nutritional value, is insufficient; restrictions on critical dual-use equipment continue to impede relief efforts; housing, medical evacuations and healthcare services have yet to reach the levels required to address the immense needs of the civilian population. We call for the unimpeded delivery of humanitarian aid at scale, as well as for the opening of additional crossings across the Strip. Hamas and all armed groups must urgently and fully disarm and we support Mr. Mladenov's sustained efforts toward this goal.

At the same time, it is critical to implement early recovery projects in the entire Gaza Strip. Greece is ready to take part in discussions regarding the Horizon Fund so as to ensure a coordinated, transparent and impactful recovery effort, in close coordination with the Palestinian Authority. We look forward to the Palestine Donor Group meeting in Brussels in a few weeks. We anticipate the NCAG's timely instatement, as well as the deployment of the vetted Palestinian Police Forces and of the International Stabilization Force in Gaza.

Despite operating in extraordinarily dangerous conditions, humanitarian workers continue to deliver life-saving assistance. Their work deserves the fullest protection and

unwavering support, in accordance with international humanitarian law. They must never be targeted and accountability must be ensured in all circumstances.

Madam President,

As our Foreign Minister has stressed, Gaza and the West Bank form a single, indivisible territorial unit of a future Palestine State. We categorically oppose any plans to expand control over or annex parts of the West Bank. The evacuation orders in Al-Ahmar, the "Land Registry and Settlement of Rights" initiative, the antiquities bill, construction plans in the E1 area, as well as demolitions and evictions in East Jerusalem, particularly in Silwan, are all indicative of an explicit vision of annexation.

Equally, the protection of historical, archaeological, or religious heritage cannot become a pretext for large-scale land appropriation. We call for an immediate reversal of these trends. They run counter to international law, contrary to Resolution 2334, and steadily erode the foundations upon which a negotiated settlement toward the Two-State Solution must be built.

Of equal concern is the sharp and unprecedented rise in settler violence targeting Palestinians, including Christian communities. Responding to the severity of such violence, the EU recently sanctioned extremists responsible for human rights abuses in the West Bank. While we take note of Israel's recent statements aimed at curbing settler violence, words must be matched with accountability, consistent investigations and follow-up on the implementation of those decisions.

Furthermore, we reiterate our call for unhindered access, the preservation of and respect of the Status Quo of the Holy Sites in Jerusalem – an issue of profound importance for interfaith coexistence.

Madam President,

The stabilization of the West Bank also requires the release of withheld Palestinian tax revenues. This is a prerequisite for reform, institutional resilience, and the preservation of the Palestinian Authority's fiscal capacity.

We acknowledge and encourage the Palestinian Authority's ongoing reform efforts under very difficult circumstances, including the recent announcement of presidential elections in 2027 and amendments concerning parliamentary elections in the Occupied Palestinian Territories. An empowered and reformed Palestinian Authority will be a credible partner for Peace.

In closing, as we are approaching the first commemoration of the New York Declaration, the moment calls for renewed political courage and a reinvigorated diplomatic effort. We must restore a credible political horizon for the Palestinian people and advance a meaningful political process leading to a Two-State Solution, in line with the relevant Security Council Resolutions.

I thank you.