



PERMANENT MISSION OF GREECE  
TO THE UNITED NATIONS



## Security Council Briefing on the situation in the Middle East (Lebanon) 1 June 2026

Statement of Greece delivered  
by H.E. Ambassador Aglaia Balta  
Permanent Representative of Greece to the United Nations, New York

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Thank you Madame President, for promptly scheduling today's urgent meeting. I would also like to thank our briefer, ASG Martha Pobe, for her thorough remarks.

Colleagues,

Lebanon stands at a dangerous crossroads. What is at stake is not only its sovereignty, but also the stability of the wider region. The continued hostilities between Israel and Hezbollah, despite the ceasefire arrangements and ongoing diplomatic efforts, are causing immense suffering to civilians while further destabilizing the country. Greece has condemned in the strongest terms, since the very beginning, Hezbollah's attacks against Israel, which dragged Lebanon into this devastating conflict, one that it neither pursued nor deserves.

At the same time, while recognizing Israel's legitimate right to self-defense, we are deeply concerned by the continued expansion of Israeli military operations inside Lebanon. The recent capture of the strategic Beaufort Castle and the surrounding ridge marks a dangerous further ground incursion into Lebanese territory. We urge for the reversal of these recent acts, for they could moreover be counterproductive with regards to a political solution, risking to push it further out of reach.

We call for an immediate cessation of hostilities and renewed efforts towards a durable diplomatic settlement. Full implementation of Security Council Resolution 1701 and strict adherence to all ceasefire commitments by all parties remain indispensable.

We support the continuation of direct political talks between Israel and Lebanon in Washington, DC, urging the parties to engage constructively and in good faith toward a comprehensive ceasefire agreement, which can have a positive impact on sustainable peace in the region as well.

At the same time, we reaffirm that the protection of civilians and civilian infrastructure must remain a top priority. Thousands have lost their lives, over a million people have been displaced, and critical infrastructure has suffered extensive damage. The latest military developments in southern Lebanon risk triggering additional displacement, further exacerbating an already acute humanitarian crisis.

Greece has already organized a national aid mission to Lebanon, delivering humanitarian and development assistance and plans on organizing more. We are also finalizing the allocation of a substantial financial contribution through WHO, aimed at strengthening Lebanon's health sector, namely the hospital of St. George in Beirut while providing 3 tons of humanitarian aid to Beirut. We stand ready to contribute to international efforts aimed at supporting Lebanon's recovery, security and institutional resilience.

Madame President,

Amid the ongoing crisis, we cannot overlook the Lebanese Government's efforts to restore the State monopoly over arms and strengthen national institutions, under highly unfavorable circumstances. The Lebanese Government's decision to fully ban Hezbollah's military activities, is a clear token of their determination to deal with demanding issues and our efforts should focus on supporting them to achieve this goal.

A stable and secure Lebanon can only be attained through strong State institutions, capable of exercising effective governance across the entire country.

The Lebanese Government needs and deserves the full support of the international community. Greece will continue to support the efforts of President Aoun and the Government of Lebanon. In this regard, we support the LAF bilaterally and upon request of the Lebanese Government, we have procured defense equipment, soon to be followed by a second round of defense materiel.

Last but not least, we reiterate once again our call for the safety and security of UNIFIL personnel, who continue to operate under extremely challenging conditions. UN peacekeepers are an essential pillar of stability and a visible expression of the international community's commitment to peace. We strongly condemn all attacks and acts of intimidation against UN peacekeepers, as such actions are contrary to international law and relevant Security Council resolutions.

In conclusion, Mr. President,

Should the current military escalation and territorial expansion continue, the outcome is unlikely to bring greater security. Instead, it risks producing further instability, potentially with regional repercussions, additional suffering for civilians and an ever more elusive political solution. We urge all parties to return to the path of diplomacy and dialogue in such a critical moment and to take tangible steps toward de-escalation. Lebanon deserves a future of peace, security, and dignity — free from external interference and internal division. Greece will stand by its side in that effort.

I thank you.