



PERMANENT MISSION OF GREECE
TO THE UNITED NATIONS



**Security Council Briefing on
the situation in the Middle East (strikes against Bahrain and Kuwait)
Thursday 2 July 2026**

Greece's Statement delivered
by H.E. Ms. Aglaia Balta
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Merci, Monsieur le Président,

Permettez-moi tout d'abord de vous féliciter pour votre accession à la présidence du Conseil de sécurité pour le mois de juillet, de vous souhaiter plein succès et de vous assurer que vous pouvez compter sur notre engagement constructif. Je tiens également à féliciter la Colombie pour le succès de sa présidence au mois de juin.

I would like to thank Assistant Secretary-General Ms. Elizabeth Spehar for her briefing.

Greece is deeply alarmed by the latest missile and drone attacks reportedly directed by Iran against the Kingdom of Bahrain and Kuwait. We unequivocally condemn these attacks and express our full solidarity with Bahrain, as well as with all countries in the region that continue to be targeted. Our GCC partners did not seek to be drawn into this conflict and should not be exposed to attacks on their territory, people, or critical infrastructure. These actions are a clear violation of Security Council Resolution 2817, of the UN Charter and of international law.

From the outset, Greece has stood by her GCC partners. Moreover, in this new environment in the Middle East, GCC countries are indispensable partners to collectively act and shape a regional security architecture which will ensure long-term security and stability, safeguarding the sovereignty and territorial integrity of Bahrain and other countries in the region

Mr. President,

The ceasefire agreements in the region continue to be fragile and risks of further escalation remain high. Greece strongly supports the ongoing diplomatic efforts and, in particular, the negotiations between the United States and Iran so as to create the conditions for sustained de-escalation, address legitimate security concerns and bring a stable and lasting peace in the region.

At the same time, we strongly believe that Iran must never acquire a nuclear weapon. Preservation of the non-proliferation regime is a pre-condition for sustainable stability. Full cooperation with the IAEA, transparency, safeguards compliance and verification are

essential to rebuild trust and ensure the exclusively peaceful nature of Iran's nuclear programme. We call for a swift resumption of cooperation between Iran and IAEA, including through a visit by IAEA inspectors in Iran as soon as possible.

Diplomacy must remain the path to be followed in order to produce an effective, verifiable and durable outcome.

Finally, Mr. President,

Greece attaches paramount importance to maritime security and freedom of navigation. The Strait of Hormuz must immediately return to the status quo ante of safe, normal and unimpeded passage. All vessels should enjoy the right of transit passage, in accordance with UNCLOS, without any form of obstruction, intimidation or interference, including mines, unlawful fees, tolling or other restrictions, including after the 60-days period.

The Strait should not be used as a bargaining chip in the current negotiations and beyond, as disruptions in the Strait affect not only the countries of the region, but also global trade, energy security, food security and international peace and security. The implementation of the agreement will contribute to the gradual normalization of maritime traffic and the restoration of confidence in international shipping.

At this critical juncture, the Security Council must send a clear and united message: attacks against countries of the region must stop; Resolution 2817 must be fully implemented; maritime security and freedom of navigation must be safeguarded; and diplomacy must prevail.

I thank you.