



PERMANENT MISSION OF GREECE
TO THE UNITED NATIONS



**Security Council Open Debate on
the situation in the Middle East, including the Palestinian Question
Tuesday 28 July 2026**

Greece's Statement delivered
by Mr. Ioannis Stamatekos
Deputy Permanent Representative of Greece to the United Nations

Thank you, Mr. President, and let me thank UN DSC for the Middle East Peace Process Mr. Ramiz Alakbarov for his remarks.

Recent developments in the Middle East remind us how fragile regional stability remains and how quickly tensions can escalate. From Gaza to Lebanon, Syria and the Gulf, the challenges before us are interconnected. Respect for international law, including the UN Charter, and determined diplomacy must guide our collective response. The UN has an indispensable role to play.

This means safeguarding freedom of navigation and ensuring unimpeded transit through International Straits, including the Strait of Hormuz and Bab-el-Mandeb, in accordance with international law, as reflected in UNCLOS. We will continue cooperating closely with our International Partners, including France, the UK, and Saudi Arabia to promote initiatives, defensive in nature, to safeguard freedom of navigation and maritime security.

Greece stands in solidarity with its regional partners and strongly condemns illegal and unprovoked attacks against civilian infrastructure and international shipping by Iran. We equally condemn continued threats and attacks by the Houthis against maritime shipping to and from Saudi Arabia. Greece will strengthen its cooperation with Saudi Arabia and GCC members in promoting regional stability and prosperity.

Our commitment to the global non-proliferation architecture remains unwavering. The NPT and the IAEA remain its indispensable pillars. Iran must therefore commit, clearly and unconditionally, to an exclusively peaceful nuclear policy.

Mr. President,

Turning to Lebanon. We welcome the Framework Agreement and the subsequent direct talks in Rome between Israel and Lebanon, facilitated by the United States. The direct Israeli-Lebanese track offers a genuine opportunity to advance towards sustainable peace and it deserves our full support. The path to lasting stability lies in the full implementation of Security Council Resolution 1701, the restoration of the Lebanese State's authority throughout its territory and the disarmament of all non-State armed groups, so as to ensure the state's monopoly on the legitimate use of force. We stand firmly behind President Aoun and the Lebanese Government as they undertake this

daunting task. Greece maintains a strong engagement with Lebanon across the military, economic and diplomatic fields. We will continue supporting the Lebanese Armed Forces both bilaterally and together with our partners.

Greece has also provided funding to Lebanese hospitals and we will continue assessing projects aimed at addressing Lebanon's socio-economic needs and supporting a sustainable path towards prosperity for all Lebanese.

We are actively assessing the post-UNIFIL period. An International Presence will be required to ensure that the gradual withdrawal of the Israeli forces from Lebanon and the strengthening of the deployment of the LAF's, particularly in the South, take place smoothly and in a coordinated manner. Having been a significant contributor to UNIFIL from the outset, Greece stands ready to contribute and participate actively to discussions on a post-UNIFIL Mission, including in the Security Council.

In Syria, Mr. President, as discussed in this setting a few days ago, political transition with inclusiveness, accountability, justice and genuine national reconciliation is possible and the newly formed People's Assembly could be an important step in this path. Translating commitments into actions will now ensure that all Syrians feel fully protected and represented. Greece intends to remain an active partner in this effort and supports deeper engagement between Syria and the UN, and we also welcome the historic visit of the Secretary General in Damascus.

Mr. President,

The need for a credible political horizon in Gaza remains as pressing as ever. The Comprehensive Peace Plan for Gaza, endorsed through Resolution 2803, has created an opening which we should turn into lasting progress. Disarmament of Hamas is a priority, and we commend the efforts of HR Mladenov in this regard and we look forward to the deployment of the ISF in the Strip. Addressing Israel's legitimate security concerns remains indispensable for building a durable peace.

At the same time, the gap between humanitarian needs and the assistance reaching civilians in Gaza is alarming. Humanitarian actors, including UNRWA, remain indispensable. The Palestine Donors Group meeting in Brussels reaffirmed the international commitment to Gaza's recovery, including through the Horizon Fund. Greece will participate in the Team Gaza Initiative launched by the European Commission.

As a first step, we will focus on enhancing social and economic infrastructure across the Strip. Transitional arrangements should reinforce -not replace- Palestinian institutions. We support the National Committee for the Administration of Gaza (NCAG) and the deployment of the newly vetted Palestinian Police Forces. Our collective objective is to support the Palestinian Authority in implementing reforms paving the way for its return to Gaza, as provided for in Resolution 2803.

In the West Bank, settlement expansion, forced displacement, demolitions and settler violence against Palestinians -including Christian communities- violate international law and undermine the prospects for a negotiated peace.

Preserving the Status Quo of the Holy Sites in Jerusalem is also essential for interfaith coexistence and regional stability.

We call for the release of withheld Palestinian tax revenues and welcome the Palestinian Authority's reform efforts under exceptionally difficult circumstances. Greece will continue supporting these efforts, including through the EU PEGASE mechanism, channeling its funding to East Jerusalem hospitals.

Mr. President, international initiatives -such as the New York Declaration- demonstrate that support for peace remains strong. That support must be matched by a credible political process leading to the two-State solution.

I thank you.