



PERMANENT MISSION OF GREECE
TO THE UNITED NATIONS



**Security Council Meeting on the situation in the Middle East (Yemen)
13 August 2026**

Greece's Statement delivered
by Mr. Ioannis Stamatekos, Charge d'affaires
Deputy Permanent Representative of Greece to the United Nations, New York

Thank you, Madame President.

I would like to thank Special Envoy Hans Grundberg and Under-Secretary-General for Humanitarian Affairs and Emergency Relief Coordinator Tom Fletcher for their briefings.

I also welcome the participation of the Permanent Representative of Yemen in today's meeting.

Madame President,

Greece remains deeply concerned by the recent military escalation in and around Yemen, including continued attacks against commercial shipping in the Red Sea and the increasing use of military force by the Houthis against Yemeni forces and neighbouring States.

Recent Houthi missile and drone attacks risk further destabilizing Yemen and threaten to draw the country further into broader regional confrontation and to undermine efforts towards a political settlement.

We condemn in the strongest terms the continued attacks against the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, including those targeting its territory and critical civilian and energy infrastructure. Such attacks are unacceptable and pose a serious threat to regional peace and security.

We call on the Houthis to cease all attacks, respect the sovereignty and territorial integrity of neighbouring States, and comply fully with international law and relevant Security Council resolutions.

Madame President,

Freedom of navigation is a fundamental principle of international law and must be respected by all. Greece strongly condemns the continued Houthi attacks against international shipping and the grave risks they pose to seafarers, commercial vessels and global maritime trade. The security of navigation in the Red Sea, the Bab el-Mandeb Strait and the Gulf of Aden is a matter of critical international importance. Developments in the Red Sea cannot be viewed in isolation from the wider challenges to maritime security across the region, including in the Strait of Hormuz.

Greece reiterates that freedom of navigation and the rights of passage through international straits, including the right of transit passage, where applicable, must be fully respected in accordance with international law, including UNCLOS. International straits must remain open and accessible to international shipping, without discrimination, unlawful restrictions or interference with the exercise of navigational rights.

At the same time, maritime security cannot be separated from the broader political and humanitarian situation in Yemen. Further military escalation will not resolve the underlying conflict. On the contrary, it risks reversing the progress achieved since the 2022 truce and further aggravating an already dire humanitarian situation.

Greece remains firmly committed to safeguarding freedom of navigation, including through its active support for EU Naval Force Operation ASPIDES, in accordance with its defensive mandate and international law.

Madame President,

Greece strongly supports the efforts of the UN Special Envoy towards a comprehensive and sustainable political settlement through an inclusive, Yemeni-led and Yemeni-owned process under UN auspices, with full respect for Yemen's unity, sovereignty, independence and territorial integrity. We call on all parties to engage constructively and in good faith with the Special Envoy. There can be no military solution to this conflict.

We also welcome the appointment of Yemen's first woman Minister of Foreign Affairs, Dr. Alfira . This represents an important milestone for women's participation in Yemen's political and public life.

The full, equal, meaningful and safe participation of women at all levels of decision-making, including in the political process, is indispensable to sustainable peace.

Madame President,

The humanitarian situation remains deeply alarming. The international community must ensure that assistance reaches those most in need. We therefore call on donors to provide adequate, timely and predictable humanitarian funding to address urgent needs and prevent further deterioration.

Humanitarian personnel must be able to operate safely and without obstruction. We reiterate our call for the immediate and unconditional release of all United Nations, humanitarian and civil-society personnel detained by the Houthis. Their safety, security and freedom of movement must be respected, and humanitarian access must remain unhindered.

In conclusion, Madame President,

The message of the international community must remain clear and united:

- Freedom of navigation and international shipping must be respected and must never be held hostage to political or military objectives.
- The Houthis must not jeopardize maritime security in the Red Sea, must not drag Yemen into a wider regional conflict and must not undermine efforts towards a sustainable political settlement.

Greece will continue to support the efforts of the United Nations and the international community towards a peaceful, stable and prosperous Yemen. A durable solution can only be political.

I thank you.