



**PERMANENT MISSION OF GREECE
TO THE UNITED NATIONS**



Security Council Briefing on the situation in the Middle East (Syria) 27 August 2026

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

Thank you, Madam President,

And let me thank Deputy Special Envoy Cordone and Acting Assistant Secretary General Ratwatte, as well as Ms. Rola Roukbi for their valuable contributions.

Almost a year since the Security Council's historic visit to Damascus, the Secretary-General's recent visit to Syria marks another important milestone. His presence and engagements there point to a new chapter in Syria's relationship with the United Nations and, importantly, in the country's future.

I wish to underscore three points today.

First, progress has been made on both the political transition and transitional justice, although important challenges remain. Greece continues to support a Syrian-led and Syrian-owned political transition, which must be truly inclusive, credible, and sustainable. The protection and meaningful political participation of all Syrians, including women, irrespective of ethnicity or religion, must be guaranteed. This is indispensable for Syria's long-term stability and prosperity.

A key institution of the political transition, the composition of the People's Assembly has been finalized. It must safeguard the meaningful participation of all Syrians, regardless of ethnicity or religion, in the political affairs of their country and start work on a Constitution which protects and integrates all components of the Syrian society. Its work should also contribute to accountability, the rule of law and ultimately a permanent constitutional order enjoying broad legitimacy.

We also note progress on transitional justice, which is essential for reconciliation and rebuilding trust amongst the different components of Syrian society.

In this context, we also look forward to the adoption of the forthcoming General Assembly resolution on women searchers of missing persons, which Greece is proud to co-sponsor. Cooperation with UN mechanisms, including the IIIM and the IIMP, remains critical in this context.

We welcome Syria's renewed cooperation with the OPCW and the restoration of Syria's rights and privileges within the Organization clearly demonstrates that constructive engagement with the international community can produce tangible results. The recent breakthrough in cooperation with the IAEA provides another encouraging example of the value of transparency and international engagement.

Second, Madam President, we welcome the United States' decision to rescind Syria's designation as a State Sponsor of Terrorism. This important development can help facilitate reconstruction, investment and broader economic activity, supporting Syria's recovery and its reconnection with the international community. Prosperity in Syria is key for the prosperity and the stability of the whole region. We are ready to play an active and constructive role to this end. The country's reconstruction can also help create the conditions for the voluntary, safe and dignified return of Syrians abroad.

Third, turning to the security situation, we are encouraged by signs of de-escalation and by the growing emphasis on dialogue and negotiations following recent concerning developments. We welcome the direct talks between Syria and Israel and sincerely hope that they will yield concrete results. We also acknowledge the constructive role played by the United States and Jordan in this context.

Greece reiterates its full respect for Syria's sovereignty, independence, unity and territorial integrity. We welcome the implementation of the 29 January agreement to integrate the SDF and all the relevant military and civilian structures in the Syrian State. This was an important step towards an independent and sovereign Syria encompassing all its components. Equally, the Sweida Roadmap must be followed up and fully implemented, one year after its adoption.

In concluding, Madam President,

Greece believes that an inclusive political transition, justice and accountability, economic recovery and full respect for Syria's sovereignty can together lay the foundations for a peaceful, stable and prosperous future. The odyssey of the Syrian people has been long and arduous. As the end appears to draw near, Greece stands firmly alongside the Syrian people mindful that the path ahead remains with many challenges. We stand ready to contribute to this endeavour.

I thank you.