



PERMANENT MISSION OF GREECE
TO THE UNITED NATIONS



**Security Council Briefing on the situation in the Middle East,
including the Palestinian Question
11 August 2026**

Greece's Statement delivered
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Thank you, Madame President.

Allow me to begin by thanking our briefers, Deputy Special Coordinator, Mr. Ramiz Alakbarov, and UNICEF Deputy Executive Director, Ms. Hannah Sulieman, for their remarks.

Greece, together with its fellow European members of the Security Council, called for today's meeting, as we consider it essential for the Council to remain seized of the developments in the West Bank and East Jerusalem.

We meet at a critical moment amid ongoing efforts to consolidate the ceasefire in Gaza and advance its next phase. We must thus ensure that the prospects for peace are not eroded by developments on the ground, in both Gaza and the West Bank, which constitute a single, indivisible territorial unit of a future Palestinian State.

Madame President,

The situation in the West Bank and East Jerusalem remains concerning.

We are witnessing developments that threaten to fundamentally alter the realities on the ground: settlement expansion, repeated evacuation orders, demolitions and evictions, as well as forced displacement. Such actions run counter to international law and SC Resolution 2334, while continuously eroding the foundations upon which the two-State solution must be built.

The rise in settler violence targeting Palestinian civilians, including Christian communities, is a source of grave concern and should be addressed promptly. Thorough investigations, prosecution of perpetrators and effective follow-up remain essential.

At the same time, Greece firmly condemns terrorism and all attacks against civilians. Israel has legitimate security concerns, which must be addressed in accordance with international law. We call on all sides to exercise maximum restraint and to refrain from actions or rhetoric that could fuel further violence and escalation.

We also reiterate the paramount importance of preserving and respecting the historic and legal Status Quo of the Holy Sites in Jerusalem. Any actions that undermine this longstanding arrangement are deeply concerning and must be avoided. This principle is indispensable for interfaith coexistence and regional stability.

The stabilization of the West Bank also requires addressing the severe humanitarian and economic pressures facing the Palestinian population.

The continued withholding of Palestinian tax revenues is placing the Palestinian Authority under unsustainable financial strain. We reiterate our call for the immediate release of these revenues, which are essential for maintaining institutional stability, delivering basic services and enabling the Palestinian Authority to pursue its reform agenda.

We acknowledge the steps already undertaken by the Palestinian Authority towards reform under exceptionally difficult circumstances and encourage their continuation. A strengthened, reformed and effective Palestinian Authority remains a credible partner for peace. We want to see the Palestinian Authority succeed in its reform agenda and return to Gaza as soon as conditions allow.

Madame President,

The international community must continue to ensure the safe, rapid and unimpeded delivery of humanitarian assistance to all those in need. The role of UNRWA in providing essential humanitarian assistance, healthcare, education and protection services to Palestine refugees in Gaza and the West Bank remains indispensable in this regard.

Greece will continue supporting those efforts, including through the EU PEGASE mechanism, channeling its funding to East Jerusalem hospitals.

In conclusion, Madame President,

The current moment calls for renewed political courage and diplomatic engagement.

As reaffirmed by the New York Declaration and the Global Alliance for the Implementation of the Two-State Solution, the international community remains committed to preserving a credible political horizon.

For Greece, the path ahead can only be through a meaningful political process leading to a negotiated two-State solution, allowing Palestinians and Israelis to live side by side in peace, security and dignity.

I thank you.