

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

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

Thank you, Mr. President,

And let me thank the Acting Special Coordinator, Ramiz Alakbarov, and High Representative for Gaza to the Board of Peace, Nickolay Mladenov for their briefings, as well as Ms. Athena Rayburn, for her remarks.

Mr. President,

Nine months after the adoption of Security Council Resolution 2803, the necessity for a credible political horizon in Gaza remains as urgent as ever. The commitments undertaken under the Comprehensive Peace Plan must now be translated into concrete action on the ground.

Greece welcomes the progress achieved so far, including the release of all hostages, the scaling up of humanitarian assistance and Israel's approval of the entry of the ISF into Gaza. Most importantly, we encourage all parties to maintain the current talks, which are essential to advance the implementation of the Plan and build on the progress achieved so far.

At the same time, urgent further steps are needed to address the dire humanitarian situation in Gaza. Despite the relative improvement in conditions, thousands of civilians continue to be affected by water insecurity, severe pressure on the health system, malnutrition and inadequate shelter. All amidst extreme summer temperatures and draught conditions.

Humanitarian and commercial flows must be sustained, made predictable and further increased. In this vein, the role of humanitarian actors, including UNRWA, remains indispensable. In this regard, we are concerned with the incursion into the United Nations Kalandia Training Centre. We reaffirm that the integrity and inviolability of United Nations premises must be respected, upheld and protected.

Early recovery must move forward in parallel with the ongoing political and security discussions. Momentum should be maintained on projects addressing immediate social and economic needs, while ensuring that transitional arrangements strengthen rather than replace Palestinian institutions.

The disarmament of Hamas and of other armed factions is also a priority. The terror groups are an impediment to peace and to the realization of the aspirations of the Palestinian people. Hamas cannot have a role in the governance of Gaza. We commend the efforts of High Representative Mladenov on accelerating the discussions on disarmament as addressing Israel's legitimate security concerns is a necessary condition for peace.

We encourage the necessary arrangements for the National Committee for the Administration of Gaza to enter the Strip and assume its responsibilities as soon as possible so as to implement the crucial plans on housing and restoration of basic services. We also support the deployment of the newly vetted Palestinian Police Forces.

We believe that the roles of NCAG and the Palestinian authority are complementary. We will continue supporting the Palestinian Authority in its path for reforms. The ultimate objective should be the return of a reformed and effective Palestinian Authority to Gaza as soon as possible in accordance to the UNSCR 2803. At the same time, we should collectively continue engaging with Israel on the release of withheld Palestinian tax revenues, which are critical to the financial stability of the Palestinian Authority and its reform efforts.

Madam President,

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

Settlement expansion, forced displacement, demolitions and settler violence, including against Christian communities, threaten to fundamentally alter the realities on the ground. We are strongly concerned with the recent tendering for the construction of housing units in the E1 settlement, as such actions run counter to international law and undermine the prospects for a negotiated Two-State solution. Inflammatory rhetoric and provocative statements are similarly counterproductive. In this context, consistent investigations, follow-up, and implementation of relevant decisions remain essential.

It is of paramount importance the preservation and respect of the historic and legal Status Quo of the Holy Sites in Jerusalem, an essential element of interfaith coexistence and regional stability.

In concluding, Madam President,

Greece will continue to support all efforts aimed at the reinvigorating a credible political process, leading to a negotiated two-state solution, in line with all relevant UNSC Resolutions and the New York Declaration.

International initiatives, including the recent meeting of the Global Alliance for the Implementation of the Two-State Solution in Rome, provide further impetus to advance the political process and contribute to implementing the commitments undertaken.

Greece will remain committed to working to turn the present opening into lasting progress towards sustainable peace and stability in Gaza and the West Bank.

I thank you.