



PERMANENT MISSION OF GREECE
TO THE UNITED NATIONS



**Security Council Briefing on
Threats to international peace and security caused by terrorist acts
Wednesday 5 August 2026**

Greece's Statement delivered
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Thank you Madam President,

Allow me to begin by congratulating Denmark on assuming the presidency of the Council this month and wish you every success in your duties. I would also like to express my appreciation to the Democratic Republic of the Congo for a successful stewardship of the Council in July. I thank our briefers from the UN Office of Counter-Terrorism (UNOCT) and the Counter-Terrorism Committee Executive Directorate (CTED) for their insightful presentations and their steadfast commitment to this critical agenda. I also join others in extending our condolences to the government and people of Pakistan regarding the recent terrorist attack that cost innocent lives.

Madam President,

Although sustained counter-terrorism efforts have degraded Da'esh across several theatres, the organization continues to adapt through its decentralized structure and resilient regional affiliates. The threat therefore remains persistent and demands sustained international vigilance.

Greece remains deeply concerned by the continued regionalization of terrorism, particularly across Africa. The spread of terrorist activity across the Sahel, the Lake Chad Basin, the Democratic Republic of the Congo and Mozambique once again demonstrates how terrorist groups exploit weak governance, porous borders, local conflicts and transnational criminal networks.

Developments in Syria also require our constant vigilance. Da'esh continues to maintain a significant operational presence and has increasingly shifted to hit-and-run attacks against religious, political and military targets in urban areas. It is imperative to address the terrorist threat and prevent renewed violence, while protecting civilians and ensuring accountability for violations of international law. All Syrians, irrespective of ethnicity or religion, must enjoy equal protection under the law, equal citizenship and the right to live in safety and dignity. The sovereignty and territorial integrity of Syria must also be fully respected.

The situation following the closure of Al-Hawl camp is also concerning. Thousands of individuals, primarily women and children with family links to Da'esh, remain unaccounted for. The fate of approximately 3,000 Da'esh-affiliated detainees also remains unclear.

We applaud the considerable contribution of Iraq, including its assumption of responsibility for thousands of detainees transferred from north-east Syria and its sustained repatriation efforts. Iraq's experience demonstrates that determined national leadership, supported by international cooperation, can significantly degrade terrorist capabilities.

We also remain concerned by the threat posed by ISIL-K, which continues to seek opportunities to rebuild its operational capacity and conduct external attacks. This underlines the importance of sustained intelligence-sharing and regional cooperation, including with the countries of Central Asia.

Madam President,

As we also heard by the briefers, we are alarmed by the increasingly sophisticated misuse of new and emerging technologies by terrorist groups. The use of AI is no longer confined to propaganda and recruitment. Terrorist groups are also expanding their use of commercial drones, virtual assets, encrypted communications and digital platforms. Our response must keep pace with these evolving threats. Stronger international and public-private cooperation, effective governance of emerging technologies and enhanced efforts to disrupt terrorist financing are essential, while fully safeguarding human rights and fundamental freedoms.

Greece also reiterates the importance it attaches to maritime security as an integral component of international counter-terrorism efforts. We welcome UN initiatives to strengthen Member States' capacities to counter terrorist travel by sea and related illicit activities through improved port security, passenger information systems and maritime domain awareness. Terrorism, transnational organized crime and illicit trafficking increasingly exploit the same vulnerabilities in maritime and border security, threatening freedom of navigation, critical infrastructure and global supply chains.

Above all, Madam President, the humanitarian dimension must remain central to our response. Greece strongly supports safe, voluntary and dignified repatriation, together with prosecution where appropriate, rehabilitation and sustainable reintegration measures. Children affected by terrorism must be treated first and foremost as victims, in accordance with Security Council Resolution 2427 (2018). Their protection and reintegration are essential to preventing future cycles of radicalization.

To conclude, Madam President, Greece reaffirms its unwavering commitment to the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy and to a comprehensive approach that combines effective security measures with prevention, international cooperation and full respect for human rights. Only through sustained international solidarity and coordinated action can we effectively respond to the continuously mutating threat posed by Da'esh.

I thank you