



PERMANENT MISSION OF GREECE
TO THE UNITED NATIONS



**Security Council High-Level Open Debate on
“Food Under Fire: The Security Council’s Role
in Mitigating Global & Local Food Crises”
25 August 2026**

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

Madame President,

I thank Denmark for convening this very important debate. I also thank the Secretary-General for his continuous and strong engagement on this issue. I would like to thank as well the Acting Director of the World Food Programme, Mr. Karl Skau, and the Co-CEO of Action Against Hunger and Member of the Global Coalition Against Conflict and Hunger, Dr. Perrine Benoist, for their powerful messages, action and dedication.

The message is clear: eight years after the adoption of Security Council Resolution 2417, conflict remains a principal driver of acute food insecurity. The latest *FAO-WFP Hunger Hotspots Outlook* warns that acute food insecurity is expected to deteriorate in 13 hotspots, with Sudan, Palestine, South Sudan, Haiti and Mali facing the highest risk of famine or catastrophic food insecurity. At the same time, the consequences of conflict increasingly extend far beyond the battlefield.

Allow me to highlight four points.

First, Greece underscores that Resolution 2417 must remain an instrument for action, rather than merely a declaratory framework. The Council should use this tool more consistently to prevent, expose, and respond to hunger caused by armed conflict, including by demanding compliance with international humanitarian law and unimpeded humanitarian access. Member States have a responsibility to uphold and comply with the resolutions of this Council.

Second, access is key: protecting food systems requires protecting the infrastructure and routes that sustain them. Food insecurity does not stop at borders when maritime security is disrupted and trade routes are endangered. The war in Ukraine and the tensions in the Strait of Hormuz have shown that disruptions to maritime trade routes, energy flows, fertilizer supplies and humanitarian logistics, can rapidly translate into higher food prices and greater food insecurity, particularly in import-dependent countries.

In recent months, Russia has resumed a practice dating back to the first months of its war of aggression against Ukraine, namely the targeting of Ukraine's port infrastructure and civilian vessels in the Black Sea, depriving developing countries of vital grain supplies and contributing to significant increases in food and fertilizer prices. Assessments by the UN Food and Agriculture Organization emphasize that restrictions on Black Sea grain logistics directly undermine the purchasing power of low-income populations, further exacerbating food insecurity and malnutrition in crisis-affected regions.

In Gaza, the gap between humanitarian needs and the assistance reaching civilians remains equally alarming. A steady and predictable flow of humanitarian and commercial supplies must thus be fully maintained and significantly increased, including through the removal of remaining obstacles to their delivery. Humanitarian actors, including UNRWA, can play a significant role in this regard.

In Sudan, increasing drone attacks are disrupting humanitarian aid, commercial food supplies, markets and essential infrastructure, further worsening food insecurity, particularly in Darfur, Kordofan and Blue Nile. In North Kordofan, the UN documented 21 drone-related incidents between 1 and 19 July, affecting residential areas, fuel stations, electricity infrastructure and markets. In El Obeid, continued insecurity has aggravated food and medical shortages, while triggering further displacement.

Third, as one of the world's leading maritime nations, Greece stresses that freedom of navigation and the rights of passage through international straits must be fully respected in accordance with international law, as reflected in UNCLOS. Secure sea lines of communication are indispensable to global food security. Safeguarding maritime security, transport routes and humanitarian supply chains must therefore remain a core priority for the Security Council.

Fourth, the world faces shrinking humanitarian resources at precisely the moment when needs are rising. As our briefers underlined, humanitarian actors are increasingly forced to do more with less, while crises multiply and funding gaps widen. Predictable and adequate financing, including through multilateral mechanisms, is not only a moral imperative — It is essential to prevent today's food crises from becoming tomorrow's famines.

Madame President,

Greece, as a member of the *Global Alliance against Hunger & Poverty* since 2024 and a signatory to the 2023 *Joint Communique Condemning the Use of Food as a Weapon of War*, remains committed to translating solidarity into action. We continue to support the World Food Programme, including through our participation in the *Grain from Ukraine* initiative and our contributions to WFP's operations in Sudan. Building on our humanitarian assistance to civilians in Gaza last year, Greece delivered three tons of humanitarian aid — including food and water — to Lebanon earlier this year.

In concluding, Madame President,

Conflict-driven hunger is neither inevitable nor acceptable. Resolution 2417 provides the framework; our collective responsibility is to implement it. Greece stands ready to work with all partners towards this shared objective.

I thank you.