



PERMANENT MISSION OF GREECE
TO THE UNITED NATIONS



**Security Council Emergency Meeting on the situation
in the Middle East (Yemen)
10 September 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,

I would like to thank Special Envoy Hans Grundberg for his briefing. I also welcome the participation of the Permanent Representatives of Yemen and Saudi Arabia in the meeting.

I will raise the following points:

De-escalation is of utmost importance at this alarming moment, as Special Envoy Grundberg has just underlined. Yemen must not become entangled in a wider conflict in the Middle East.

Over the past month, we have witnessed a deeply serious military escalation in Yemen, culminating in the recent Houthi attacks against civilian and energy infrastructure in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, that resulted in multiple civilian casualties. Greece condemns in the strongest terms these attacks.

We reaffirm our unwavering support for the sovereignty and territorial integrity of Saudi Arabia, which must be fully respected. Equally, the sovereignty, territorial integrity, unity and political independence of Yemen must be also upheld. And any actions that further fuel regional tensions must immediately cease.

The escalatory attacks by the Houthis are unacceptable and risk further destabilizing an already fragile regional security environment. We urge an immediate de-escalation of all hostilities and an end to attacks that risk igniting a broader military confrontation. All parties must exercise utmost restraint and refrain from actions that could lead into a full-scale war, with consequences extending far beyond the region.

The protection of civilians and civilian infrastructure must remain an absolute priority. We reiterate the obligation of all parties to comply fully with international humanitarian law, under any circumstances. Civilian infrastructure must never be deliberately targeted, and civilians must never bear the consequences of hostilities.

We further reiterate our call for the immediate and unconditional release of all those arbitrarily detained by the Houthis, members of the civil society, NGOs, diplomatic personnel, including the 73 UN staff members. The safety and security of humanitarian personnel must be fully respected. All parties must ensure the necessary security conditions for humanitarian personnel to carry out their vital work, in full accordance with international law, including international humanitarian law.

Mr. President,

Maritime security and freedom of navigation in the Red Sea, including the strategically important Bab al-Mandeb Strait, are vital to regional and global stability. Greece strongly condemns the repeated Houthi attacks against commercial and merchant vessels, which pose a serious threat to the safety of seafarers, disrupt international trade, and undermine the free and unhindered flow of commercial shipping. Such attacks are unacceptable and must cease immediately.

Greece remains firmly committed to safeguarding freedom of navigation in the region. EU Operation ASPIDES, continues to play a vital role in protecting commercial vessels and ensuring their safe passage in the Red Sea, in accordance with its defensive mandate and with full respect for international law.

Mr. President,

Yemen has already endured more than a decade of conflict, and a return to large-scale hostilities would have grave consequences for the Yemeni people and the wider region. A political solution to the Yemeni conflict is both essential and achievable, and the necessary space for diplomacy to succeed must be preserved.

We reiterate our full support for the dedicated efforts of the UN Special Envoy, Hans Grundberg, to advance dialogue and a sustainable political solution. An inclusive Yemeni-led and Yemeni-owned political process, under the auspices of the UN, remains the only viable path towards achieving lasting peace and stability in Yemen.

We call on all parties to contribute constructively to this effort, engage meaningfully with the United Nations, and support international efforts towards de-escalation and a return to dialogue, leading to a durable and comprehensive political settlement in Yemen.

I thank you.