



PERMANENT MISSION OF GREECE
TO THE UNITED NATIONS



**Security Council Emergency Briefing on
the situation in the Middle East (Syria)
Thursday 17 September 2026**

Greece's Statement delivered
by Mr. Ioannis Stamatekos,
Deputy Permanent Representative of Greece to the United Nations, New York

Thank you, Madam President,

And I thank Deputy Special Envoy Claudio Cordone and USG Tom Fletcher, as well as Mr. Yaser Tabbara for their valuable contributions.

Madam President,

Syria is at a moment of profound transition. There is now a real opportunity to move from a country emerging from conflict to a country rebuilding its institutions and fully reclaiming its place in the international community. I would like to make three points:

First, institutions must now deliver on the promise of an inclusive transition; The establishment and convening of the People's Assembly, as well as the announcement of the composition of its Committees are important milestones. But representation must be more than a formal exercise. Women and all components of the Syrian society, regardless of their ethnic or religious background, must have a meaningful voice in shaping the country's future. The next major test will be the constitutional process; one that protects rights and guarantees equality before the law for all Syrian citizens. The same principle applies to transitional justice. There can be no lasting reconciliation without accountability, and no accountability without equal protection for all victims.

The adoption of the GA Resolution on women searchers of missing persons last week, which Greece was proud to co-sponsor, is a reminder that the fate of those who remain missing continues to be one of the deepest of the conflict. We welcome the steps taken to address the trauma of the conflict and the increasing engagement of the Syrian authorities with international mechanisms. We encourage further engagement with the IIIM and all relevant institutions.

Second, Syria's opening to the international community must now translate into recovery and opportunity. The real test will be whether a new economic horizon translates into a better life for ordinary Syrians. Recovery must reach communities across the country and

give young Syrians a reason to build their future at home. At the same time, humanitarian assistance remains necessary. Greece will be on Syria's side during this transition. It stands ready to contribute to Syria's recovery and to efforts that strengthen its links with the wider international community.

Third, Syria's political opening must be matched by a genuine security settlement. We welcome the completion of the process leading to the dissolution of the Syrian Democratic Forces and their integration into the Syrian state institutions. This is a significant step towards restoring the unity of the Syrian state and consolidating its sovereignty.

At the same time, integration must be coupled with guarantees for the rights and meaningful participation of the Kurdish community in Syrian institutions. The situation in Suweida also requires sustained attention. It cannot be allowed to falter or disintegrate.

The September 2025 Roadmap must be fully implemented, while the restoration of trust between communities and state institutions must remain at the core of all efforts, with the aim of a truly inclusive Syria.

The same is true for Syria's relations with its neighbors. We encourage direct contacts between Syria and Israel, facilitated by the United States. De-escalation must remain the immediate priority, while negotiations should contribute to durable security arrangements.

Greece reiterates its unequivocal respect for Syria's sovereignty, independence, unity and territorial integrity. All violations must therefore cease and the 1974 Disengagement of Forces Agreement must be respected.

In conclusion, Madam President,

Syria's transition must belong to Syrians – all Syrians. The international community now has a responsibility to help make that transition work. Syria has come a long way in a short period of time. The task now is to make the progress irreversible.

Greece will continue to support a Syrian-led and Syrian-owned transition; an inclusive political process; accountability and reconciliation; economic recovery; and a Syria that is sovereign, united, stable and at peace with itself and its neighbours.

I thank you.