



PERMANENT MISSION OF GREECE
TO THE UNITED NATIONS



Security Council Meeting on the situation in the Middle East (Yemen) 9 October 2026

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

I would like to thank Special Envoy Hans Grundberg, Assistant-Secretary-General for Humanitarian Affairs Mohamed Yahya and the CEO of Save the Children International, Inger Ashing, for their briefings.

I also welcome the Permanent Representatives of Yemen and Saudi Arabia in today's meeting.

Greece is deeply concerned by the continuation of military activity and the renewed escalation in and around Yemen and the Red Sea region. We condemn the Houthis' pursuit of military confrontation, including ongoing attacks against Saudi Arabia, civilian sites and critical energy infrastructure.

The most recent ballistic-missile and drone strikes against international airports in Riyadh, Abha and Aden, pose a severe threat to aviation security.

Such attacks are unacceptable and risk further destabilizing Yemen and the wider region. We stand with Saudi Arabia and the Government of Yemen in upholding their sovereignty and territorial integrity, in accordance with international law.

Civilians and civilian infrastructure must never be targets. The number of casualties among the civilian population, including children, is alarming. The protection of civilian life remains an absolute priority, and all parties must comply fully with their obligations under international humanitarian law.

There is no substitute for a political solution. Violence will only deepen Yemen's crisis, increase human suffering and further undermine regional stability. The objective for a Yemeni-owned, Yemeni-led and inclusive peace process, under the UN auspices, in respect of Yemen's sovereignty, territorial integrity, independence and political unity, needs to be preserved.

Greece commends UN Special Envoy's continued engagement towards achieving this objective by keeping channels of communication open and sustaining the prospect of the peace process. We encourage all parties and regional partners to engage constructively with these efforts.

And I must underline that maritime security in the Red Sea region, including Bab al Mandab and Gulf of Aden, is equally important and cannot be separated from the broader political process in Yemen. We condemn in the strongest terms Houthi attacks against commercial vessels and call for the full respect of freedom of navigation and the unimpeded passage of international shipping. International maritime routes must remain open, safe and secure.

Restoring confidence and trust in these waters is essential not only for regional stability but also for global trade and food and energy security. Greece will continue its commitment through the EU Naval Operation ASPIDES to safeguarding freedom of navigation and protecting commercial vessels, in accordance with international law, and in full respect of its defensive mandate.

Yemen must not be allowed to slide further into what could become one of the world's gravest humanitarian crises. The growing number of IDPs, particularly children, demands urgent attention. As we have heard, displacement, food insecurity, and limited access to essential health services are placing children at heightened risk of acute malnutrition and preventable diseases, including cholera and measles. The disruption of education is further compounding their vulnerability, with millions of children deprived of safe and continuous learning opportunities. Particular concern is warranted regarding the recruitment and use of children by the Houthis.

Humanitarian assistance must reach those in need safely and without obstruction, with humanitarian personnel guaranteed secure, and unhindered access. Although we welcome the release of one UN staff member, at the same time, we reiterate our call for the immediate and unconditional release of all 72 UN staff, diplomatic personnel, NGO staff, humanitarian workers, and other arbitrarily detained personnel.

The message must be clear: military escalation is not a solution. The cycle of violence must end. The objective needs to remain unchanged: a comprehensive political settlement that brings a sustainable end to the conflict and establishes the foundations for lasting peace and stability in Yemen, for the benefit of the Yemeni people and the wider region.

I thank you.