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TO THE UNITED NATIONS

DIALOGUE DIPLOMACY DEMOCRACY
GREECE
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SECURITY COUNCIL
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Security Council meeting on the Situation in the Middle East
Adoption on 2140 sanctions regime
12 November 2026

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

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Thank you, Madame President.

We welcome the unanimous adoption of the resolution renewing the sanctions regime established under resolution 2140.

We express our appreciation to the penholder, the United Kingdom, for its tireless efforts in steering the negotiations to consensus.

Today's adoption shows the Council's determination to strengthen the sanctions regime and to curb the Houthis' destabilizing actions.

The Houthis have shown alarming military adaptability and their capabilities are increasingly advanced. They obtain advanced weaponry through illicit imports and extensive smuggling networks, mainly by the sea. They have also attained a disturbing degree of self-sufficiency in local production enabled by transfers of military technology and expertise from external actors, in violation of the sanctions regime, including the targeted arms embargo.

The Panel of Experts has been clear on this in its final report, and in the two ad hoc reports produced pursuant to paragraphs 15 and 16 of Security Council resolution 2801(2025). We commend its dedicated work.

The resolution attempts to reverse this trend and keep the sanctions regime relevant, effective and responsive to these threats. It also underscores the need to step up efforts to prevent illicit arms transfers, including of critical components that could be diverted for military purposes, and to disrupt the networks that sustain and expand Houthi military capabilities.

Madame President,

Greece attaches particular importance to freedom of navigation, stronger maritime security safeguards, and greater efforts to prevent illicit maritime transfers.

We therefore welcome the resolution’s language on reinforcing maritime security in the Red Sea, the Gulf of Aden and the Bab al-Mandab strait, and on addressing the continuing threats posed by the Houthis.

Greece reiterates its steadfast commitment to safeguarding international shipping through EU Naval Operation ASPIDES, in line with its defensive mandate.

We also welcome the expansion of the Panel of Experts to include dedicated maritime security expertise, which will give the Committee the necessary guidance and support it needs in this area.

We call on the immediate release of the arbitrarily detained United Nations staff personnel, NGOs and diplomatic personnel.

Systematic violations of international humanitarian law and human rights law, particularly against women and children, including the recruitment and use of children by the Houthis, also demand our increased attention. Sustained efforts are needed to ensure accountability and prevent further violations.

In conclusion, Greece underscores the importance of full, consistent and effective implementation of the sanctions regime by all Member States. This is essential to achieving its objectives and to advancing regional peace and security.

I thank you.