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

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Thank you, Madam President,

I thank Deputy Special Envoy, Claudio Cordone, as well as Assistant Secretary-General Mohamed Yahya, as well as Ms. Hayma Alyousfi for their valuable contributions.

Colleagues,

A country's future cannot be built if a part of its population is left behind. This is particularly true for Syria. We support inclusive institutions to ensure effective integration of all Syrian components without any distinction.

Women's empowerment must begin with equal access to education, including higher education, and extend to their full participation in public life, decision-making and peacebuilding. This was also a central message of the Security Council's open debate on Women, Peace and Security, held during Greece's Presidency last month. We now need to see these commitments translated into tangible progress in Syria.

As we approach the second anniversary of the beginning of Syria's transition in December, I would like to make three points.

First, the transition must deliver inclusive and accountable institutions. The establishment and work of the People's Assembly, including the formation of its committees, are important milestones. We welcome the submission of the draft transitional justice law and the UN's contribution to this process.

Commitments concerning a permanent constitution and future elections should now lead to concrete progress. The constitutional process needs to guarantee equality before the law and protect the rights of all Syrians, regardless of their ethnic or religious background.

Experience has shown that there can be no lasting reconciliation without accountability. Accountability must be comprehensive and impartial, addressing violations committed both before and since December 2024. We therefore encourage continued cooperation with the IIIM and all relevant international mechanisms.

Civil society must also be able to operate freely. While we welcome efforts to establish a legislative framework for NGOs, this must safeguard freedom of association and expression.

Second, Syria's opening to the international community should bring recovery and opportunity. We welcome, in this regard, the announcement of the Syria Reconstruction Trust Fund in cooperation with the World Bank. Humanitarian assistance should reach all communities fairly and recovery should give young Syrians a reason to build their future at home.

We look forward to the Syria Partnership Coordination Forum to be held in Damascus and the advancement of the EU-Syria partnership. Greece stands ready to contribute to Syria's recovery and its reintegration into the international community.

Third, progress on the political front must be matched by a sustainable security settlement. We welcome the ongoing integration of the former SDF’s security and administrative structures into state institutions. This process must be accompanied by guarantees for the rights and meaningful participation of the Kurdish community, including with regard to language and education.

The situation in Sweida requires sustained attention. The September 2025 Roadmap needs to be fully implemented, with restoring trust between communities and state institutions at its core.

Trust also needs to be rebuilt between Syria and its neighbors. We want a Syrian-led, Syrian-owned transition, a truly independent Syria able to decide for its own matters, without any undue exterior interference and fully respecting International Law.

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, as this Council also underscored in its Press Elements issued in October, during Greece's Presidency.

In conclusion, Madam President,

Syria's transition must belong to all Syrians. The international community has a responsibility to help make its achievements irreversible.

Greece will continue to support a Syrian-led and Syrian-owned transition; an inclusive political process in which women play their full and equal role and all ethnic and religious communities are fully represented and their rights protected; a process grounded in accountability and reconciliation; economic recovery, and the vision of a Syria that is sovereign, united, stable and at peace with itself and its neighbors.

I thank you.