

27 May 2025

**Report of the Secretary General on
means to strengthen security and cooperation in the Mediterranean region
(UNGA Resolution 79/76)**

SUBMISSION OF GREECE

Peace and security in the Mediterranean

Respect for international law and commitment to the principle of good neighbourly relations are of paramount importance for safeguarding and strengthening peace and security in the Mediterranean. Greece wishing to be a credible pillar of stability in the region has always been committed to the rules of international law and remains a firm advocate of the principle of peaceful settlement of disputes in accordance with the UN Charter, placing particular emphasis on the prohibition of the threat or use of force.

Furthermore, Greece has consistently and responsibly exercised its sovereign rights in its maritime areas in accordance with the international law of the sea, as enshrined in the UN Convention on the Law of the Sea, abstaining from activities which could exacerbate tensions and jeopardize regional peace and security. Greece repeatedly stresses the importance of respecting the sovereignty, sovereign rights and jurisdiction each State possesses in its maritime zones in accordance with international law, including the UN Convention on the Law of the Sea, and strongly condemns any State's action or rhetoric challenging these principles. In this respect, any acts that constitute, in any manner, violations of the territorial sea or national airspace of any state in the region by third countries are unequivocally denounced, as they blatantly contradict the core principles of international legality and sovereign equality of states, while undermining regional stability and peaceful interstate relations.

Equally unacceptable is raising issues of sovereignty which were settled clearly and definitively through international treaties. Greece upholds the principles of the UN Charter, among which the inviolability of borders is salient to maintain peace and stability in our region.

At the same time, full respect for and protection of monuments of Outstanding Universal Value, language, religion, and fundamental rights of minorities is essential for the enhancement of cooperation among countries in the region.

The developments in the Eastern Mediterranean have created a new reality in our region. Greece has demonstrated its readiness to cooperate on a bilateral level with all countries of the region, with the scope to defuse tensions, enhance peace, security and stability. In this spirit, Greece also supports efforts to establish an inclusive, pluralistic and peaceful Syria with safeguards for human rights and respect for good neighbourly relations as this would contribute to the overall stability in the Mediterranean.

At the same time Greece has sought to strengthen cooperation in trilateral or enhanced formats (Greece-Cyprus-Egypt, Greece Cyprus-Jordan-, Greece-Cyprus-Israel, Greece-Cyprus-Israel + USA) and will seek the revitalization of the trilateral cooperation format with Lebanon (Greece-Cyprus-Lebanon), demonstrating the unwavering dedication and

commitment to address rapidly changing dynamics in the Eastern Mediterranean and the Middle East and to foster a more stable, integrated and prosperous region.

These platforms have already promoted and have a great potential to further advance long-term collaborations in a diverse range of fields, such as cybersecurity, innovation, civil protection and environmental protection, contributing to peace and stability in the region. Great emphasis is also placed on strengthening regional energy cooperation and providing an effective framework for promoting energy connectivity and diversification between the Eastern Mediterranean area and Europe.

The Med9 format is an equally important multilateral platform seized of the issue of security in the Mediterranean and contributing to the enhancement of stability in the region.

As to the specific issue of the non-physical realm of cyberspace, Greece fervently supports cooperation aiming to maintain a global, peaceful, secure, open and independent cyberspace governed by international law, where human rights and fundamental freedoms and the rule of law fully apply, with a view to the well-being, economic growth, prosperity and the integrity of free and democratic societies. In this context Greece supports further exchange with regard to the Global Digital Compact.

Greece will continue to upgrade, expand and deepen this regional cooperation architecture towards advancing common interests and fostering a more connected and resilient community in the Eastern Mediterranean and the broader Middle East.

Maritime security

For the Mediterranean as a Sea connecting three continents, maritime security is of paramount importance and directly linked to global stability, economic resilience, sustainable development and thus ultimately to the well-being of all nations.

It is indeed evident that risks to maritime security have multiplied and new threats have emerged, undermining the freedom of navigation and the safety of maritime infrastructure, and with serious destabilizing effects impacting international peace and security. They also exacerbate ongoing critical security and humanitarian situations which are directly linked to the work of the Security Council.

As a maritime nation, Greece places great emphasis on security on the high-seas and takes measures together with neighbouring countries in order to safeguard the Mediterranean Sea from illegal activities.

In this regard, Greece in its capacity as the rotating President of the Security Council for the month of May 2025 held a high-level open debate chaired by Prime Minister Mr. Kyriakos Mitsotakis and providing an opportunity for Member States to engage in a strategic dialogue on (i) strengthening international efforts to counter maritime security threats in a holistic way, (ii) promoting awareness of the seriousness of these threats and of the need for States and competent International Organizations to intensify their efforts to address them, and (iii) following on relevant developments in the field of maritime security in order for the Security Council to consider taking further steps, as appropriate.

In light of the above, Greece supports and is actively engaging with partners also in concrete actions aiming at promoting maritime security. It is done so also in the

framework of the International Maritime Organization (IMO), among others with regard to the development of relevant rules and standards and the enhancement of capabilities to combat maritime security risks. Equally, in the framework of the European Union promoting and supporting the European maritime strategy with a view to optimally frame global efforts towards maritime security. This strong engagement is exemplified by the leading role Greece has assumed in EU Naval Operations ATALANTA, ASPIDES and IRINI. Together with our partners and the wider UN Membership, we will continue to strive towards enhancing maritime security.

Greece also organized in April 2024 the 9th Our Ocean Conference, in which the issue of maritime security was also raised. Several countries of the Mediterranean region participated in the Conference.

Greece encourages the UNSC to remain seized of the issue of maritime security.

The Cyprus issue

Another fundamental condition for consolidating peace and security in the wider region of the Eastern Mediterranean is an agreed, just and viable settlement of the Cyprus issue, in the framework of the relevant UN Security Council resolutions, including the latest Resolution 2771 of 31 January 2025. Such a settlement would also create significant potential in terms of political stability and economic development for the whole region.

A number of UNSC Resolutions condemn the illegal secessionist entity and all such actions in the Turkish occupied part of Cyprus, also calling upon all states to respect the sovereignty, independence and territorial integrity of the Republic of Cyprus, and not to recognize any Cypriot state other than the Republic of Cyprus. In this context, they further call upon Greek Cypriots and Turkish Cypriots to negotiate a mutually acceptable, bizonal, bicomunal federal settlement, with political equality, as defined in the resolutions, a single international personality, a single sovereignty and a single citizenship.

In this regard, Greece fully supports the UNSG's Mission of Good Offices in Cyprus, and in particular his strong commitment to continuing his efforts for the resumption of negotiations. The recent re-appointment of Ms Maria Angela Holguin as the UNSG Personal Envoy, with a mission to reengage with the parties, currently involved with confidence building talks, and advise the UN Secretary-General on the next steps concerning the Cyprus issue is a most welcome development. At the same time, enhanced cooperation between the EU and the UN on this matter can also have beneficial effects and the appointment of Mr Johannes Hahn as the European Commission's Special Envoy for the Cyprus issue will contribute in this direction.

Israel-Palestine

The consequences of the terrorist attack of Hamas on October 7th 2023 are continuing to affect the region. Hostages that are still held by Hamas. It is imperative that all hostages will be immediately released.

At the same time the urgent humanitarian situation in Gaza must be adequately addressed, while new efforts must be devoted to dialogue for the day after, while it should be clear that there can be no role for Hamas in the day after discussions. The Two-State

Solution remains the only viable alternative for long-term and sustainable peace in the region, with robust security guarantees for Israel.