



PERMANENT MISSION OF GREECE
TO THE UNITED NATIONS



**Security Council Arria Formula Meeting on
“Beyond the battlefield: Atrocities of the Armed Forces of Ukraine
against civilians”**

24 January 2025

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

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. We take note of the statements by the briefers. And I would like to make four points on behalf of my delegation.

First, as we approach the third anniversary of its war of aggression, Russia using this meeting format, is still attempting to appear as the victim of this war that it has unleashed against Ukraine. Let us be clear: Russia is not the victim of this war; it is the aggressor. It is also particularly surprising that today’s meeting is dedicated to alleged atrocities of Ukraine in a city, which Russia itself attacked and illegally occupies until today.

Second, grave violations of International Law and International Humanitarian Law against the people of Ukraine have been very well documented in multiple findings of credible and respected international bodies, such as the Human Rights Council-mandated Independent International Commission of Inquiry on Ukraine, the UN Human Rights Monitoring Mission in Ukraine, the OSCE Moscow Mechanism and others. We particularly underline the latest findings of the Independent International Commission, which concluded that Russian authorities have acted pursuant to a policy encouraging torture against civilians and prisoners of war and have thereby committed torture as a crime against humanity.

In this context, Greece supports the efforts of all relevant international bodies and calls on Russia to cooperate fully with them and to facilitate their requests for access, including to the Russian areas affected by the hostilities and to the occupied territories of Ukraine.

In the meantime, the aggression continues unabated: new aerial attacks with missiles and drones against many Ukrainian cities and territories earlier this week – and just yesterday in Zaporizhzhia – causing further civilian casualties and destruction of civilian infrastructure.

Third, Greece, a staunch proponent of international humanitarian law and human rights law, as fundamental pillars of international law, calls on all parties to abide by their obligations, including the duty to protect civilians and especially women and children, who have been gravely affected by this war. Attacks against civilians and civilian infrastructure, including energy and nuclear-related infrastructure, must cease immediately.

Fourth, Greece fully subscribes to national and international efforts to ensure accountability for all violations perpetrated during this war and bring those responsible, whoever they may be, to justice. In this context, Greece fully supports the work of the International Criminal Court, as well as the establishment of a special tribunal to prosecute the crime of aggression against Ukraine. We firmly believe that upholding international law and the principles of the UN Charter will a just and lasting peace in Ukraine.

I thank you.