



PERMANENT MISSION OF GREECE
TO THE UNITED NATIONS



GREECE
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SECURITY COUNCIL
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**Security Council briefing
under the agenda item "Maintenance of peace and security of Ukraine."
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Greece's Statement delivered
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Thank you, Mr. President. At the outset, I would like to thank USG Fletcher for his briefing.

Mr. President,

Hardly two weeks ago we discussed in this Chamber the ongoing humanitarian suffering in Ukraine, following Russia's continuing and intensifying aggression. Unfortunately, our calls to Russia to cease immediately the targeting of civilians and civilian infrastructure have been completely ignored and Ukrainians suffer the consequences, as they have in the course of three years of relentless war.

Every day in recent weeks we have seen new missile and drone strikes across Ukraine, causing dozens of civilian casualties. On April 4, a single strike, in a residential area of Kryvyi Rih has caused 18 deaths and over 60 injuries. What is particularly deplorable is the indiscriminate nature of this attack, which also targeted a children's playground, claiming the life of 9 children. Indiscriminate attacks are prohibited under international humanitarian law and, if they amount to attacks directed against civilians, may constitute war crimes.

Greece deplores all attacks against civilians and civilian objects and calls on Russia to immediately cease all attacks against residential areas and critical infrastructure

in Ukraine. All parties must adhere to their obligations under international law, including international humanitarian law.

Mr. President,

Respect for international law and humanitarian law should go hand in hand with accountability for the perpetrators and justice for the victims and remain crucial for a just and lasting peace. We firmly believe that violations of International Humanitarian Law and war crimes should be thoroughly investigated by the relevant international institutions and the perpetrators, whoever they may be, be brought to justice.

Mr. President,

Greece has taken note of the latest advancements for peace in Saudi Arabia, following the US initiative, in the hope that they will lead, sooner rather than later, to a full ceasefire. We also welcome the fact that Ukraine participates in these deliberations and regret that Russia has not accepted the agreement between the United States and Ukraine for a full and immediate ceasefire. In this respect, current deadly attacks against Ukrainian civilians seriously undermine peace efforts and demonstrate Russia's lack of good will.

We hope that the 30-day ceasefire on energy infrastructure and on freedom of navigation and elimination of the use of force in the Black Sea will be implemented. We echo the Secretary General's statement that an agreement on freedom of navigation in the Black Sea will be a crucial contribution to global food security and supply chains.

Mr. President,

Much more needs to be done to lead from a fragile and partial ceasefire to a just, comprehensive and lasting peace. We need to harness the benefits of inclusive diplomacy to establish a solid framework for peace, security and prosperity. A peace based on the UN Charter and International Law, in full respect of Ukraine's sovereignty and territorial integrity, and on credible and robust security guarantees, which will deter and prevent the recurrence of war in the future.

Mr. President,

In closing, allow me to reiterate that a sustainable peace in Ukraine requires the active engagement of the whole international community given the regional and global repercussions of the ongoing war.

I thank you.