



PERMANENT MISSION OF GREECE  
TO THE UNITED NATIONS



**Security Council Briefing on  
the Maintenance of Peace and Security of Ukraine  
12 January 2026**

Greece's Statement delivered  
by H.E. Ambassador Aglaia Balta  
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Thank you, Mr. President.

I would like to thank Under-Secretary- General DiCarlo and Director Rajasingham for their briefings and I welcome the participation of Ukraine in the meeting.

Mr. President,

The continuing drone and missile attacks unleashed by the Russian Federation against major urban centers, civilians, and critical energy infrastructure in Ukraine, including over the holiday season and the past few days, demonstrate Moscow's disregard for the diplomatic momentum built in Geneva, Florida and Paris. The intermediate-range ballistic missile strike of January 9 against the Lviv region - just 60 kilometers from the Polish border - using the so-called "Oreshnik" missile, represents the most recent serious escalation of this war, posing a major threat to the safety and energy security of Ukraine.

These recent strikes that resulted in numerous civilian casualties and severe destruction of buildings and critical infrastructure, left thousands of Ukrainians without electricity, heating and water in the middle of winter illustrating, once again, utter disregard for international law and international humanitarian law. Moreover, during the strikes in Kyiv, the premises of the Embassy of the State of Qatar were damaged, in flagrant violation of the 1961 Vienna Convention on Diplomatic Relations.

In view of the above, I would like to make three points:

First, we join the Secretary-General in condemning, in the strongest possible terms, the deliberate targeting of civilians and civilian and energy infrastructure, in blatant violation of international humanitarian law and we call upon Russia to cease immediately such unacceptable, unjustifiable and unlawful acts. As we have heard from USG DiCarlo, 2025 was the deadliest year for civilians in Ukraine since 2022. Total civilian casualties in Ukraine increased by more than 30% compared to the previous year and by 70% compared to 2023.

We express our gratitude to all UN and humanitarian agencies in Ukraine, including OCHA, UNICEF and FAO, for the life-saving services they provide, particularly in protecting the most vulnerable groups, such as children, women and people with disabilities.

Second, we reiterate our principled position that the protection of humanitarian personnel should always remain a top priority and that they must never be targeted. We are also deeply concerned by the ongoing impact of hostilities on healthcare infrastructure and personnel. According to the World Health Organization, nearly 43% of all attacks against healthcare facilities globally in 2025 occurred in Ukraine. Tragically, nine such attacks have already been documented in the country during the first days of 2026. We deplore the fact that during the recent strikes, one health worker was killed and several other health workers and rescuers were injured.

Third, on peace efforts; Greece welcomes the progress on a draft peace plan achieved in Geneva and Florida, as well as the recent Paris Declaration. We reiterate our call for an immediate ceasefire as a necessary first step towards a comprehensive, just and lasting peace. We remain committed to Ukraine's sovereignty, independence, and territorial integrity, within its internationally recognized borders and we unequivocally reject any change of borders as a result of the use of force. This would set a dangerous precedent with potential repercussions on global security. We emphasize that no peace agreement can be sustainable without the direct involvement of Ukraine and Europe and the full consent of Ukraine and we also stress the need for credible and enforceable security guarantees to prevent the recurrence of war.

Last but not least, we should ensure that the post-war period enables for the reconstruction of Ukraine and sets the course for the return not only of peace but also of prosperity to the war-torn country.

Mr. President,

In closing, Greece reiterates its solidarity with the Ukrainian people, as they persevere through the fifth harsh winter of hostilities in Russia's continuing war of aggression against Ukraine. We support the US-led initiatives to end the war and we call on Russia to engage in negotiations in good faith, in full conformity with international law and the UN Charter.

I thank you.