



PERMANENT MISSION OF GREECE
TO THE UNITED NATIONS



**Security Council Arria-Formula Meeting on “The Information Dimension of the
Ukrainian Crisis: How Media Narratives Shape Conflict”
Friday 20 February 2026**

Greece’s Statement delivered
by Mr. Athanasios Rizos, First Counsellor

Thank you, Madame Chair.

We take note of the statements by the briefers.

The theme of another Arria formula meeting by the Russian Federation, once again seeks to promote a distorted narrative, in order to justify blatant violations of international law and the UN Charter.

On a different occasion, it would have presented us with the opportunity to reflect on the broader topic of misinformation, disinformation and hate speech, as central elements of campaigns aiming to erode trust, polarize societies, paralyze decision-making and destabilize democratic states – the definition of a hybrid threat.

A lot could have been said on the use of bot farms, AI and social media manipulation in order to spread propaganda and influence audiences worldwide.

Nevertheless, as Russia continues its war of aggression against Ukraine, we are obliged to focus on the dire humanitarian situation in Ukraine and on efforts to achieve a much needed just and lasting peace.

Therefore, allow me to make three brief points:

First, no narrative could obfuscate the fact that almost four years ago, Russia violated some of the most basic principles of international law and the UN Charter, using force against a neighboring state and causing immeasurable pain and suffering. This act and its repercussions have been condemned repeatedly by the United Nations and other International Organizations and bodies.

Second, despite the expressed will of the overwhelming majority of the UN membership on the Ukrainian issue, through multiple General Assembly Resolutions that demanded from Russia to withdraw its forces from Ukraine, the war continues to this day. There can be no media narrative around that. Innocent civilians -among them thousands of children-

bear the brunt of this aggression inside Ukraine, while millions more have been displaced in at least 11 neighboring countries.

Last and most important, Madame Chair, we reaffirm our unwavering support to efforts to achieve peace. Greece welcomes the ongoing trilateral talks, including the agreements on the exchange of prisoners of war. At the same time, we stress that the outcome of these talks should be firmly rooted in the respect for International Law and the UN Charter and should be based on the principles of independence, sovereignty and territorial integrity of Ukraine, rejecting any change of borders as a result of the use of force.

I thank you