



PERMANENT MISSION OF GREECE  
TO THE UNITED NATIONS



**Security Council Briefing on  
the Maintenance of Peace and Security of Ukraine  
23 March 2026**

Greece's Statement delivered  
by H.E. Ambassador Aglaia Balta  
Permanent Representative of Greece to the United Nations, New York

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Thank you, Mr. President.

Deputy Secretary Landau, I thank you for your presence here today, highlighting the seriousness of the situation. I also thank USG DiCarlo and USG Fletcher for their comprehensive remarks. And I also welcome the participation of Ukraine in this meeting.

Mr. President,

Russia's war of aggression against Ukraine has now entered its fifth year and attacks are continuing. During another winter of war, Russia continued to relentlessly attack civilians and civilian infrastructure. Only during last month, schools, public buses, residential buildings and railway infrastructure were among the targets, while casualties, including children, continued to steadily rise by more than 30% compared to the same period last year.

Greece reiterates its absolute condemnation of these attacks and its unwavering solidarity and support to the Ukrainian people. Any targeting of civilians violates the most fundamental tenets of international humanitarian law and should cease immediately.

Mr. President,

The ongoing conflict in the Middle East should not divert our focus and attention from Ukraine.

The bloodshed needs to stop now. This is the will of the overwhelming majority of the international community, as repeatedly enshrined in multiple General Assembly Resolutions, including the most recent one adopted in February.

We also call on Russia to cooperate on the safe return of the Ukrainian children, in line with the General Assembly Resolution adopted last December. We stress the findings of the latest report of the International Independent Commission of Inquiry on Ukraine, concluding that deportation and forcible transfer of Ukrainian children, as well as their enforced disappearance along with other serious violations of human rights, attest to war crimes and crimes against humanity.

Mr. President,

Greece has supported the US-led peace efforts and the bilateral engagement between Ukraine and Russia and welcomes its latest outcome, namely the exchange of more than 1000 prisoners of war at the beginning of this month. We also support the next steps of this engagement to achieve peace. But not just any peace.

As a staunch proponent of international law and the principles of the UN Charter, we remain committed to the principles of sovereignty, independence, territorial integrity of all states, rejecting any change of borders through the use of force.

We emphasize that no peace agreement can be sustainable without the full consent of Ukraine and we stress the need for credible and enforceable security guarantees to deter future aggression. That is the only way forward for Ukraine and the only way to achieve a comprehensive, just and lasting peace.

Greece stands with the people of Ukraine and will continue to support a sovereign, prosperous, democratic and European future for Ukraine.

I thank you.