



PERMANENT MISSION OF GREECE
TO THE UNITED NATIONS



**Security Council Briefing on
the maintenance of peace and security of Ukraine
Monday 20 April 2026**

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

Thank you, Madame President.

I would like to start by thanking Assistant Secretary General Khiari and Assistant Secretary General Msuya for their comprehensive and insightful remarks. I also welcome the presence of Ukraine in this meeting.

Madame President,

Greece, along with the overwhelming majority of the UN membership, has repeatedly called on Russia to put an end to its war on aggression against Ukraine, in full respect of international law, including the UN Charter, international humanitarian and human rights law. It is regrettable that these calls have been ignored by Russia.

Official UN numbers have once more dimmed our hope for peace. As we have just heard by our briefers, casualties in Ukraine keep increasing. March was the deadliest month for civilians since last July, and casualties in the first quarter rose by 20% compared with last year, which had already registered more casualties than in the year before. And once more, casualties among children number in the dozens.

March also marked a record high in the use of aerial weapons against Ukraine, which constitutes the primary cause of civilian casualties. Even worse, the outlook for this month is also bleak, with dozens of civilians dead and hundreds injured.

Time and time again, we have condemned in the strongest terms the deliberate targeting of civilians, and civilian and critical infrastructure, as a serious violation of international humanitarian law. We reiterate the same point today.

Thousands of Ukrainians have left their homes also this year, as their lives are upended by war. International Humanitarian Law dictates that all parties to conflicts must take every possible measure to spare civilians from harm and to protect them as they go about their daily lives. We also call on Russia to end violations of international human rights law and international humanitarian law regarding forcible transfers and deportations in the temporarily occupied territories of Ukraine, as verified in the latest OHCHR report.

On the issue of the deportation and unlawful transfer of Ukrainian children, we welcome the recent visit of the SRSG for Children and Armed Conflict to Kyiv, and we call on Russia to ensure their safe and unconditional return to Ukraine, pursuant to the General Assembly Resolution adopted last December.

Madame President,

Peace in Ukraine is long overdue. Greece supports all diplomatic efforts to achieve peace. We also welcomed the US-facilitated direct peace talks, which have yet to resume since February. Signs of bilateral engagement, direct or indirect, with regard to the latest exchange of prisoners of war on April 11, are of course very welcome, but not sufficient.

We call for the next steps of this engagement, starting with a full ceasefire, as a necessary first step towards a comprehensive, just and lasting peace.

A peace that will be firmly based on international law and the UN Charter and in full respect of Ukraine's sovereignty, independence, and territorial integrity, within its internationally recognized borders, rejecting any change of borders as a result of the use of force.

Lastly, Madame President,

We emphasize that no peace agreement can be viable without the full consent of Ukraine and the direct involvement of Europe, and without credible and enforceable security guarantees to prevent the recurrence of war.

I thank you.