



PERMANENT MISSION OF GREECE
TO THE UNITED NATIONS



**UNSC Arria-Formula Meeting on ‘A Decade of Resolution 2286:
Protecting Medical Care in Conflict Amid Evolving Threats’
5 May 2026**

Greece’s Remarks delivered
by Mr. Ioannis Stamatekos,
Deputy Permanent Representative of Greece to the United Nations, New York

Thank you Madame President,

I would like to thank Denmark, New Zealand and Spain for convening this meeting. I would also like to thank the briefers for their comprehensive and insightful contributions.

Madame President,

Ten years ago, Security Council Resolution 2286 was unanimously adopted. It was the first-ever Resolution to address attacks on medical care in armed conflict. Today, devastating attacks against hospitals and other medical facilities in Gaza, Ukraine, Lebanon, Sudan, South Sudan, Myanmar and many other countries continue unpunished.

Allow me to highlight a few data: In **Gaza**, all 36 hospitals and the majority of primary health care centers are damaged. In **Ukraine**, people have endured the highest number of attacks on their health care during 2025 – increasing by nearly 20% compared to 2024. In **Lebanon**, the health infrastructure has been severely impacted since 2 March, and attacks on health care resulted in more than 200 injuries and 100 deaths of medical personnel. In **Sudan**, health facilities have been attacked, looted, or closed, and health care workers have been killed or displaced, while in some areas, 40% of facilities are no longer operational.

Relevant data are not abstract figures; they represent wounded and sick denied access to necessary treatment, medical workers killed or injured, hospitals closed; they represent the erosion of compliance with international humanitarian law. It is deeply concerning that the vast majority of increasing incidents of attacks is attributed to state parties to conflict. Equally concerning is the widespread use of explosive weapons in populated areas, with severe repercussions on supply chains and medical facilities.

Against this alarming backdrop, allow me to highlight the following points:

The protection of medical care in armed conflict is non-negotiable. To this end, the following issues are of critical importance:

First, we must strengthen the implementation of international humanitarian law by enhancing national legislation, developing training programs for military personnel, and reinforcing the contribution of UN peacekeeping operations. It is also vital to ensure that life-saving assistance is never interrupted, and to leverage digital technology to enhance early warning, facilitate supply of medicines, and improve protection and documentation.

Secondly, notwithstanding that attacks against hospitals and health care facilities are war crimes, we equally stress that, under the Children and Armed Conflict mandate, attacks against hospitals constitute a grave violation against children. We urge parties to conflict to end and prevent such grave violations, including these attacks.

Thirdly, we must enhance accountability by advancing the collection, verification and reporting of data, conducting independent investigations on alleged attacks against medical care, and prosecuting perpetrators. It is also important to develop new mechanisms for compliance with international humanitarian law and for sanctions, and to support the provision of reparations to victims, in accordance with Secretary-General recommendations on measures to enhance the protection of medical care.

In conclusion, Madame President,

We honor the medical and humanitarian personnel exclusively engaged in medical duties. In the inhumane reality of war, the protection of medical care and of those who need it speaks to our shared humanity and to our collective responsibility not only to condemn but also to prevent, to respond and to translate commitment into concrete action with tangible results.

I thank you.