



PERMANENT MISSION OF GREECE
TO THE UNITED NATIONS



**Security Council Briefing on
the maintenance of peace and security of Ukraine
Tuesday 19 May 2026**

Greece's Statement delivered
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Thank you, Mr. President.

I would like to start by thanking you for convening this meeting and Directors Gotoh and Wosornu for their remarks. I also welcome the presence of Ukraine in this chamber.

Mr. President,

Today's meeting takes place during the Protection of Civilians week. Tomorrow, in the yearly thematic Open Debate, member states will undoubtedly vouch for the need to protect civilians worldwide, as they do each year.

Yet there is no respite for Ukraine. For the fifth consecutive year, Ukrainian civilians are forced to suffer unimaginable horrors, subjected to brutal, continuous and escalated Russian attacks against civilian objects and critical infrastructure.

We are all aware of the horrific statistics of civilian casualties: According to the latest Secretary General report on the Protection of Civilians, more than 2.500 civilians were killed and 12.000 injured in Ukraine in 2025, a 31% increase from 2024 and a 70% increase from 2023. In the first four months of this year, confirmed civilian casualties rose by more than 20% compared to the same period of last year.

These are not mere numbers on a document, these are lives destroyed by an illegal war of aggression. And already, these figures are rendered obsolete by the horrific attacks of this month in Kiyv and other big cities in Ukraine. Once more, children were among the victims, their lives cut short, or permanently changed by injury, trauma and loss.

It is also regrettable that UN entities have increasingly been targeted. Last week's attack against a World Food Programme Mission was added to the more than 80 similar attacks in the last 2 years, while another double tap attack against an OCHA convoy similarly left no doubt of its intentional character. In that regard, we wish to remind the binding effect of the provisions of humanitarian law reflected in the Security Council Resolution 2730/2024 on the protection of humanitarian and UN personnel.

Greece condemns in the strongest terms any attacks against civilians, civilian infrastructure and humanitarian personnel striving to provide relief and we call for the unconditional and full respect of international humanitarian law.

Mr. President,

We are equally worried over the possible catastrophic consequences, which could result from the nuclear endangerment of the Chornobyl, 40 years after the tragic nuclear accident, and Zaporizhzhia nuclear plants.

The voice of peace is difficult to hear in the midst of war. Greece joined the Secretary General in support of the three-day ceasefire proposed by President Trump earlier this month, and calls for the full implementation of the agreement on a large-scale exchange of 1.000 prisoners from each side.

Yet short ceasefires are not enough. We reiterate our call for a comprehensive and sustainable ceasefire as a necessary step towards a comprehensive, just and lasting peace, that will be in line with international law and the UN Charter and will fully respect Ukraine's sovereignty, independence, and territorial integrity.

Greece, always on the side of dialogue, international law and the peaceful settlement of disputes, also regrets the stalling of the direct peace talks since last February and calls for their resumption in good faith.

Lastly, we reiterate that Greece attaches great importance to the issue of the return of Ukrainian children, stresses the humanitarian, ethical and legal consequences of their deportation and forcible transfer and underlines that this issue should be central in any future peace talks.

I thank you.