



PERMANENT MISSION OF GREECE  
TO THE UNITED NATIONS



**Security Council Briefing on  
the maintenance of peace and security of Ukraine  
22 May 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.

I would like to thank OCHA Director Wasurnu, SRSG Frazier for Children and Armed Conflict and UNICEF Deputy Executive Director Chaiban for their briefings.

Mr. President,

Greece has been unequivocal on the need to end Russia's war of aggression and has been supportive of peace efforts to that end. Yet the bloodshed continues, with civilians suffering the consequences. The time for a comprehensive and sustainable ceasefire is long overdue.

The reported attack against a college dormitory in the temporarily occupied territory of Luhansk is another stark reminder of the need to end this war. We call on Russia to allow access to the relevant UN agencies, in order to verify and report to the international community.

We recall that in blatant violation of international humanitarian law, this war has claimed the lives of almost 16.000 civilians in Ukraine, injuring more than 44.000. These numbers are growing by the day.

Protection of civilians in armed conflict is non-negotiable. Compliance with International Humanitarian Law is not optional. IHL strictly prohibits the targeting of civilians, mandates the humane treatment of detained and safeguards civilian infrastructure.

Protection of children is also non-negotiable. In the course of this war, almost 800 Ukrainian children have been killed, almost 2.800 have been injured, and thousands more have been deported and forcibly transferred to Russia.

Mr. President,

The UN membership has repeatedly been vocal, through multiple General Assembly Resolutions, on the need for an immediate ceasefire. The same applies for the vast majority of this Council.

In this spirit, recent threats against Latvia are neither helpful nor conducive to a peaceful settlement. Greece expresses its full solidarity to Latvia as a fellow EU and NATO member state. Under no circumstances should the spillover of the military operations in the wider region be allowed.

Once more, Greece condemns in the strongest terms any deliberate attacks against civilians and civilian objects and calls for the unconditional and full respect of international humanitarian law, which includes measures to protect civilians from harm. We also stress the need to end and prevent all violations and abuses against children.

Once more, Greece calls for the silencing of guns, the resumption of dialogue and diplomacy, and a good faith negotiation 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.

I thank you.