



PERMANENT MISSION OF GREECE
TO THE UNITED NATIONS



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

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

We welcome the Secretary General and thank him for his sobering remarks and we also thank Assistant Secretary-General Khiari for his briefing.

Mr. President,

This third meeting of this Council on Ukraine within 10 days is, in itself, proof enough of the need for concerted efforts to end this war. It is regrettable that we are experiencing new levels of escalation, owing to Russia's latest unwarranted and unjustified acts of aggression.

Russia's attacks against Kyiv and its surrounding areas of last weekend, one of the largest combined air attacks against the Ukrainian capital since the beginning of the full scale war, is a case in point. The massive and sustained nature of these attacks, as well as the weapons and methods used, seem to imply that the purpose was to inflict as much damage and suffering as possible, in the middle of an urban, civilian-populated area, and to directly impact Ukrainian morale.

Over the past three days, hostilities and attacks across Ukraine have killed or injured more than 240 civilians, including many children. And those attacks have also damaged schools, energy infrastructure and agricultural assets.

We deplore the civilian casualties sustained by these attacks. We also deplore more than 10 cultural institutions and 2 educational and research facilities were severely damaged in Kyiv, and we join UNESCO in condemnation of any attacks against cultural property.

In the same vein, we are deeply concerned over damages sustained by diplomatic premises in Kyiv. The announcement by the Russian MFA on the 25th of May 2026, calling on foreign citizens, including the personnel of diplomatic missions and international organizations to leave Kyiv due to plans to carry out strikes, is unacceptable. We call on Russia to abstain from such warnings or threats against diplomatic institutions and embassies in Kyiv, in full respect of the Vienna Convention on Diplomatic Relations.

In that regard, we reiterate that Greece condemns any attacks against civilians, civilian infrastructure and humanitarian personnel, wherever they may occur. We also wish to remind that protection of civilians in armed conflict is absolute, unconditional and non-negotiable and that compliance with International Humanitarian Law is not optional. We deplore any lives lost that adds to the suffering of this conflict and call for full accountability and justice for the victims.

Mr. President,

We are mindful that, as Russia claims, these attacks were expressly conducted as retaliation against a deliberate strike against a school in Luhansk last week, as deliberated also in this Council. We are once again asking for access of the relevant UN agencies to the temporarily occupied territories of Ukraine, which will ensure independent verification of such incidents.

Mr. President,

There are high risks of both vertical and horizontal escalation in this war, which need to be contained and reversed, not only to end the human suffering in Ukraine but also to restore respect and trust to international law and the principles of the UN Charter, which all of the UN member states have agreed to uphold.

As the Secretary General said in this Chamber two days ago, violence in Ukraine is expanding in scale and complexity. Russia's repeated use of new destructive weapons, such as the Oreshnik medium range ballistic missile, with its nuclear capabilities, as well as the aggressive rhetoric against other neighboring states, threaten to expand the already catastrophic consequences of this war.

It is thus clear to us that the need for an immediate full and unconditional ceasefire, which will allow for the resumption of diplomacy, has never been more urgent.

We view this as a necessary step towards achieving a comprehensive, just and lasting 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.

I thank you.