



PERMANENT MISSION OF GREECE
TO THE UNITED NATIONS



**Security Council Briefing on
the maintenance of peace and security of Ukraine
Monday 8 June 2026**

Greece's Statement delivered
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Permanent Representative of Greece to the United Nations

Thank you, Mr. President.

I would like to start by thanking you for convening this meeting and Under Secretary-General DiCarlo and acting Assistant Secretary-General Ratwatte for their remarks.

Mr. President,

We are meeting for the fifth time in less than three weeks -noted by other speakers also following another wave of massive aerial attacks Russia launched against Kiyv, Dnipro and other peaceful urban centers across Ukraine, such as Zaporizhzhia, Sumy, Chernihiv, Poltava and Kharkiv, destroying or damaging homes, businesses, healthcare and educational facilities. As announced this afternoon, a new wave of attacks across Ukraine since Friday caused scores of deaths and injuries among civilians, affecting also international organisations, particularly in Kherson.

We are witnessing the continuation of this pattern of escalation of hostilities against civilians. Russia itself has repeatedly prepared us for the consistent and systematic nature of its attacks. The human toll is by now well documented. We deplore that, once more, children -the most vulnerable group and in need of specific protection- are among the casualties. We also note the severe nature of these attacks, including double tap strikes, which cause casualties also among emergency workers.

International humanitarian law is built upon the foundational principles of distinction, proportionality, precaution and military necessity, which prohibit attacks against civilians and civilian infrastructure. We condemn their blatant violation and we stress that parties to a conflict must take all feasible precautions to protect the civilian population and civilian objects under their control.

We are also deeply concerned about latest incidents affecting nuclear safety, such as the strike against a storage facility for spent nuclear fuel near Ukraine's Chornobyl power plant.

Mr. President,

The emerging message from this vicious circle of violence is now clearer than ever: Russia must cease its aggression immediately and agree to a full, comprehensive and sustainable ceasefire, that will be based on international law, the UN Charter, as well as on credible and robust security arrangements, that will preclude the recurrence of war and ensure an independent, democratic, and sovereign future for Ukraine. This choice has been available since the launch of the US-led peace efforts last year, the bilateral engagement between Ukraine and Russia and Ukraine's own agreement to a ceasefire. We call on Russia to finally make it.

In conclusion, Mr. President,

The only way forward is not through escalation and explicit or implicit threats to expand the war to the wider region that risk further destabilization and a spillover effect of violence that could spiral out of control, but through more dialogue and diplomacy. Negotiations must be based on full respect of international law and the principles of sovereignty, independence and territorial integrity of all states.

I thank you.