



PERMANENT MISSION OF GREECE  
TO THE UNITED NATIONS



**Security Council Meeting on  
the maintenance of peace and security of Ukraine  
Monday 22 June 2026**

Greece's Statement delivered  
by H.E. Ms. Aglaia Balta  
Permanent Representative of Greece to the United Nations

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Thank you, Madam President

I would like to begin by thanking you for convening this meeting and Assistant Secretary-General Khiari and Director Wosornu for their remarks.

Madam President,

Russia's aggression against Ukraine continues unabated into its fifth year.

Early last Monday, Russia launched 600 Shahed drones and 70 missiles of various types against peaceful neighborhoods in Kyiv, Kharkiv, Odessa and Dnipro, causing yet another heavy toll of casualties among innocent civilians. At least 11 died and over 100 were injured, following a preceding weekend, in which 18 people had lost their lives and 150 had been wounded. As the UN Human Rights Monitoring Mission has reported, May was the deadliest month for Ukrainian civilians since the start of the full-scale invasion, almost doubling casualties from May 2025.

Most casualties occur in urban centers, far removed from the frontline. In that respect, we deplore Russia's use of increasingly more lethal weapons, missiles and drones in civilian areas. We equally deplore the targeting of first responders through so called "double tap" strikes.

Once again, we condemn these and any attacks against civilians and civilian objects, wherever they may occur. We call for full respect of international humanitarian and human rights law and stress that accountability remains a foundation of any durable peace.

Madam, President,

As was the case in a previous wave of attacks at the end of May, Russian strikes have again struck several of Ukraine's most prominent cultural landmarks and heritage sites. This time, the violence damaged the very core of Ukrainian religious sentiment, the historic Dormition Cathedral, "the Great Church", within the sacred Pechersk-Lavra

Orthodox monastery complex, a UNESCO World Heritage site, that had only been targeted only twice during its thousand-year history. According to UNESCO, over 536 cultural sites have been damaged in Ukraine since the start of Russia's aggression, affecting both the tangible and intangible cultural heritage of the Ukrainian people.

Greece, as a staunch defender of cultural identity, a vital, strategic necessity for survival and national resilience, joins UNESCO in condemning the attack against the Kiyv-Pechersk Lavra and any attacks against cultural property and educational institutions. We underline that deliberate attacks on protected cultural heritage sites constitute war crimes and may amount to crimes against humanity.

The same applies for violations against the children of Ukraine, including their deportation and forcible transfer. In that respect, we note with great concern that the Russian Armed Forces have been listed for the fourth consecutive year in the Annexes of the Annual Report of the Secretary General on Children and Armed Conflict, listed as perpetrators of violations against children. We call on Russia to cooperate fully with the relevant UN institutions.

Madam President,

It is evident that this protracted war must end and a negotiated settlement leading to a just and lasting peace based on international law, the UN Charter and the principles of sovereignty, independence and territorial integrity of all states, is the only way forward. In this regard, we would continue to support any US-led initiatives aimed at ending the war.

Lastly, we reaffirm once again that no peace in Ukraine can be agreed without Ukraine and that Europe must be actively involved in any future arrangements on robust security guarantees and in a final peace agreement that will foreclose the recurrence of war and ensure a sovereign, independent and democratic future for Ukraine.

I thank you.