



PERMANENT MISSION OF GREECE  
TO THE UNITED NATIONS



**Security Council Briefing on  
the Maintenance of International Peace and Security  
Monday 29 June 2026**

Greece's Statement delivered  
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Thank you, Madam President,

I would like to thank Assistant Secretary-General Pobebe for her briefing.

Madam President,

The frequency alone of these meetings related to Russia's illegal war of aggression against Ukraine is already a clear indication of the absolute need for an immediate ceasefire and a return to diplomacy. The overwhelming majority of the members of this Council has called for it and the UN membership has repeatedly expressed its will, reflected in multiple UN Resolutions. It is obvious that civilian suffering is increasing exponentially, as a consequence of Russia's fateful decision to invade Ukraine more than four years ago. Even a few hours ago renewed Russian attacks caused scores of civilian casualties, including in Dnipro, Zaporizhzhia and Sumy.

We wish to make three points:

**First**, protection of civilians in armed conflict is an absolute legal and moral imperative. Under International Humanitarian Law and the Geneva Convention (IV) on Civilians, parties to any conflict are strictly prohibited from targeting non-combatants and civilian facilities. Greece has repeatedly condemned any deliberate attacks against civilians and civilian objects and called for the unconditional and full respect of international humanitarian law. Children in particular must be protected at all times and under any circumstance. In this regard, we are calling for an independent inquiry into the reported attack against a passenger bus in Bryansk on June 17th, including through unfettered access to relevant UN agencies, in order for them to verify and report to the international community.

**Second**, any civilian life lost or otherwise affected in the context of Russia's war of choice is a tragedy. Ukrainians have been living in this reality for far too long. More than 16.000 civilians have been killed, including 796 children and almost 46.000 have been injured, including more than 3.600 children, in blatant violation of international humanitarian law.

The war in Ukraine is the deadliest conflict in Europe since World War II, marked by extensive civilian devastation and widespread human rights violations. We call on Russia to abstain from further violations of international law and hold those responsible accountable for their actions. In this regard, we commend the readiness of competent Ukrainian authorities to conduct investigations and take action against human rights violations.

**Third**, Greece has long warned against the expansion of hostilities in both magnitude and scale. In recent months, this escalation has become a reality. Urgent steps must be taken to reverse this spiral of violence and to return to the path to peace. In this regard, we are deeply alarmed by Russia's intensified attacks against urban areas in Ukraine and common military exercises, including nuclear drills, with Belarus, as well as by reports of construction of new military infrastructure in Belarus, across the Ukrainian border. These developments cannot be viewed in isolation.

Madam President,

There is a way out of this escalation, one that Ukraine has already agreed to 16 months ago: An immediate, full and comprehensive ceasefire, which would allow for the resumption of direct and meaningful negotiations between Ukraine and Russia, in full respect of international law and the principles of the UN Charter.

I thank you.