



PERMANENT MISSION OF GREECE
TO THE UNITED NATIONS



**Security Council Briefing on
Maintenance of peace and security of Ukraine
Thursday 9 July 2026**

Greece's Statement delivered
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Thank you, Mr. President

I would like to begin by thanking you for convening this meeting and Under Secretary-General DiCarlo, as well as Acting Assistant Secretary-General Ratwatte for their remarks. I also welcome the participation of Ukraine to this meeting.

Mr. President,

During the last few months, the world stands witness of new war crimes committed against Ukraine and its people in the context of Russia's illegal war of aggression. The frequency and scope of the sustained use of powerful explosive weapons, long-range missiles and drones in populated areas of Ukraine is mounting, with devastating consequences. These consequences would have been avoided, if international humanitarian law would have been duly respected.

The latest two large-scale attacks with the use of hundreds such weapons only in the eight first days of July, continue the same pattern. More than 50 civilians were killed and more than 180 were injured, mainly in Kyiv, but also in Kharkiv, Sumy, Dnipro, Zaporizhzhia and Cherkasy.

Residential buildings were targeted, adjacent to schools and playgrounds and far removed from military infrastructure. Children were once more among the victims. Of particularly shocking nature was the strike against an ambulance substation, injuring ambulance personnel, paramedics and drivers, as well as the strike against the Red Cross warehouse in Kyiv, destroying millions-worth of relief supplies. Ukrainian preparedness prevented even graver civilian harm, yet total casualties in July average 170 per day.

Comprehensive UN data for the period beginning last December until end of May of this year show a staggering 40% increase of civilian casualties comparing to the same period last year and a horrifying 93% increase compared to the same period two years ago.

Mr. President,

War is a tragedy in and of itself. Attacks on civilians transform this inherent tragedy into humanitarian crises, by systematically violating fundamental principles of international law, including distinction, proportionality and precaution. One has to wonder: What military advantage is to be gained by such escalation against civilians?

Once more, Greece strongly condemns any deliberate attacks against civilians and civilian objects, wherever they may occur.

We call for strict adherence to these humanitarian principles and join the Secretary General's appeal for urgent de-escalation.

On the human rights front, the latest report by the OHCHR also documents systematic violations against Ukrainian prisoners of war and residents of the temporarily occupied territories of Ukraine. These violations include executions, torture and ill treatment, arbitrary detention, forced conscription of protected persons and forced military patriotic classes. In that regard, we call on Russia to cease these violations, allow access to the UN Human Rights Office for independent reporting and hold those responsible into account.

Mr. President,

It has become abundantly clear that this protracted war must end immediately.

Greece, along with the vast majority of this Council, has repeatedly called for a ceasefire. The essence of this appeal is one and the same: silencing the guns and escaping the vicious cycle of violence will allow for the resumption of dialogue and diplomacy.

Therefore, I reiterate today Greece's firm conviction that an immediate and comprehensive ceasefire is needed now more than ever, as an important first step towards a negotiated just and lasting peace settlement, based on international law, the UN Charter and the principles of sovereignty, independence and territorial integrity of all states. A settlement that will preclude the change of borders through the use of force and guarantee Ukraine's security and ability to defend itself in the future.

I thank you.