PERMANENT MISSION OF GREECE
TO THE UNITED NATIONS

DIALOGUE DIPLOMACY DEMOCRACY
GREECE
UNITED NATIONS
SECURITY COUNCIL
2025-2026

Security Council Briefing on the Maintenance of Peace and Security of Ukraine
23 November 2026

Greece's Statement delivered
by H.E. Ambassador Aglaia Balta
Permanent Representative of Greece to the United Nations, New York

---

Thank you Mr. President,

I warmly welcome you to this Chamber and I thank the Latvian Presidency for convening this meeting. I also express my appreciation to USG DiCarlo, Executive Director Lindberg and Administrator De Croo for their insightful remarks.

Today's meeting takes place at a critical juncture in the ongoing diplomatic efforts toward peace in Ukraine. The resumption of direct talks has produced some encouraging results, notably a large-scale exchange of prisoners.

Regrettably, Russia has so far refused to agree to a comprehensive ceasefire while talks were being held. Casualties as a result of Russian attacks in October doubled compared with the same month last year and this horrific pattern has continued throughout this month. Children continue to play a terrible price. According to harrowing data announced by UNICEF on World Children's Day, child casualties this year exceeded the total of 2025 by more than 20%.

Furthermore, the latest Russian attacks on Kiev which damaged the diplomatic Missions of Austria, Brazil, Netherlands and Sweden are unacceptable under international law. Greece expresses its full solidarity with Ukraine and with all partners affected by the Russian attacks, including Poland, Romania, Bulgaria, Estonia and Moldova. The consequences however of Russia's war of aggression in Ukraine, including for energy and food security, extend far beyond the region.

Mr. President,

By seeking to destroy Ukraine's energy capacities, Russia is worsening an already grave humanitarian situation. Children and people in vulnerable risk bear the heaviest burden. Electricity, heating and water supplies must never be weaponized. Greece, once again, calls for a moratorium on attacks against energy infrastructure. Civilian infrastructure is protected under international law and the principles of distinction, proportionality and precaution must be upheld at all times.

We welcome UNDP's ongoing efforts to address these challenges, as well as the establishment of the Ukraine Energy Installation Facility, launched by UNDP and Ukraine's Ministry of Energy in September. For our part, we are actively contributing to Ukraine's energy resilience, including through the Vertical Gas Corridor.

Mr. President,

As we all know, Ukraine's agricultural exports play an indispensable role on global food security, particularly for import-dependent countries in Africa, the Middle East, and Asia. Before Russia's full-scale invasion, these exports helped feed approximately 400 million people each year. Reckless attacks on the maritime trade routes threaten to deprive the world from one of its greatest breadbaskets.

We recall that Resolution 2417 calls for the protection of civilian infrastructure critical to food production, distribution and humanitarian assistance and condemns the starvation of civilians as a method of warfare. We also commend WFP for its tireless global efforts to mitigate the effects of food insecurity, in Ukraine and beyond.

Drawing on its longstanding commitment to maritime security and freedom of navigation, Greece has called for a global maritime truce most recently on the open debate on Emerging Technologies and Maritime Security on the 29th of October. We have consistently condemned the indiscriminate targeting of commercial vessels, seafarers, port and agricultural infrastructure. Freedom of navigation must be fully and unconditionally protected in accordance with international law, as reflected in the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea.

Food diplomacy can also play a critical role, as demonstrated by the Black Sea Grain Initiative. Greece has translated its commitment to global food security into action, including through its participation in the Grain from Ukraine and Food from Ukraine initiatives, and by exploring the possibility of establishing solidarity lanes.

Mr. President,

The broad consequences of this prolonged war have been well documented. While Greece welcomes partial or localized ceasefires, such as the successful example of Oleshky, we renew our call for an immediate and comprehensive ceasefire, leading to good faith negotiations, towards a just and lasting peace, with the direct participation of Ukraine and Europe and firmly based on international law and the UN Charter. The Ukrainian people deserve no less.

I thank you.