



Consejo de Seguridad

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Informe del Secretario General sobre su misión de buenos oficios en Chipre

I. Introducción

1. El Consejo de Seguridad, en su resolución [2723 \(2024\)](#), solicitó al Secretario General que le presentara un informe, a más tardar el 3 de enero de 2025, sobre sus buenos oficios, en particular sobre los progresos encaminados a establecer un punto de partida consensuado para entablar negociaciones significativas orientadas a los resultados que permitieran lograr una solución. En su resolución, el Consejo alentó a los dirigentes de las comunidades grecochipriota y turcochipriota a que comunicasen por escrito a la misión de buenos oficios del Secretario General las medidas que hubieran adoptado desde la aprobación de la resolución para dar cumplimiento a sus disposiciones pertinentes, en particular los párrafos 7 a 10, con miras a lograr una solución sostenible y global, y solicitó además al Secretario General que incluyera en los informes sobre sus buenos oficios lo que se le fuese comunicando. La información actualizada que enviaron los dos dirigentes figura en los anexos I y II del presente informe.

2. El informe se centra en los acontecimientos ocurridos entre el 13 de junio y el 11 de diciembre de 2024. En él se recogen las últimas actividades llevadas a cabo por la misión de buenos oficios del Secretario General bajo la dirección de su Asesor Especial Adjunto sobre Chipre, Colin Stewart. El informe también abarca la interacción del Secretario General con las partes.

II. Acontecimientos significativos

3. Basándose en la labor de su Enviada Personal para Chipre, María Ángela Holguín Cuéllar, que concluyó su misión en julio, el Secretario General entabló contactos con los dos dirigentes y con las Potencias garantes, Grecia, Türkiye y el Reino Unido de Gran Bretaña e Irlanda. Tras esas conversaciones, invitó al líder grecochipriota, Nikos Christodoulides, y al líder turcochipriota, Ersin Tatar, a una cena informal en Nueva York el 15 de octubre.

4. Los dirigentes acordaron celebrar una reunión oficiosa de formato más amplio en un futuro próximo, con los auspicios del Secretario General, para debatir la senda a seguir. También acordaron reunirse en Chipre para estudiar la posibilidad de abrir nuevos puntos de paso. Durante el período, ambas partes han empezado a debatir esta cuestión concreta, con los auspicios de las Naciones Unidas.



5. La reunión oficiosa del 15 de octubre fue acogida favorablemente a ambos lados de la isla y suscitó entre los chipriotas la esperanza de que los dos líderes chipriotas pudieran avanzar hacia la reanudación del diálogo sobre la cuestión chipriota. La perspectiva de abrir nuevos puntos de paso también ha sido bien acogida en ambas comunidades. Además, la próxima reunión oficiosa en un formato más amplio con la participación de las Potencias garantes ha vuelto a centrar la atención en el proceso de paz y ha suscitado el debate público y la especulación sobre los aspectos sustantivos de la cuestión chipriota.

III. Antecedentes y contexto

6. Las Potencias garantes, Grecia y Türkiye, siguieron mejorando sus relaciones a diversos niveles, incluso mediante reuniones periódicas a nivel de dirigentes. Las dos capitales han reafirmado en repetidas ocasiones su compromiso de seguir afianzando su relación. Este acercamiento es alentador, dado que su apoyo constructivo del proceso de paz es fundamental en el contexto de la cuestión chipriota.

7. Durante el período sobre el que se informa siguieron celebrándose periódicamente reuniones de representantes de partidos políticos grecochipriotas y turcochipriotas bajo los auspicios de la Embajada de Eslovaquia, contándose con la participación de 15 partidos de toda la isla. En sus comunicados conjuntos, los partidos políticos recalcaron la necesidad de mejorar el ambiente político, rebajar las tensiones y regresar a la mesa de negociaciones. Los participantes expresaron su convencimiento de que el actual *statu quo*, que resulta insatisfactorio, podría superarse si los dirigentes de ambas comunidades adoptaran nuevas iniciativas. El Asesor Especial Adjunto asistió a una reunión de las dos partes el 23 de octubre para debatir la situación política actual, el contexto del proceso de paz de Chipre y las medidas de fomento de la confianza.

8. En el marco de la Vía Religiosa del Proceso de Paz de Chipre, bajo los auspicios de la Embajada de Suecia, prosiguieron los esfuerzos dirigidos a seguir afianzando la cooperación entre los líderes de diversas comunidades religiosas e instituciones confesionales que viven a ambos lados de la isla, en particular líderes cristianos y musulmanes. La Vía Religiosa también siguió abogando por que las comunidades religiosas tuvieran acceso a sus lugares de culto, incluidos los cementerios, y se ocuparan de ellos. Durante el período que abarca el informe, la Fuerza de las Naciones Unidas para el Mantenimiento de la Paz en Chipre (UNFICYP), junto con la Vía Religiosa, facilitó dos peregrinaciones a la mezquita Hala Sultan Tekke de Larnaca, en las que más de 1.150 peregrinos del norte cruzaron al sur. Las autoridades de las fuerzas de orden de ambas partes facilitaron el paso sin contratiempos. Se trata de la segunda y tercera peregrinaciones de los últimos años a ese lugar tan importante para los musulmanes, lo que supone un avance muy positivo. En el marco del Pacto Mundial sobre los Refugiados, la Vía Religiosa cooperó con la Oficina del Alto Comisionado de las Naciones Unidas para los Refugiados en Chipre, las organizaciones de la sociedad civil y las comunidades confesionales para brindar apoyo a los refugiados y solicitantes de asilo.

9. Un aumento de la actividad de los grupos de la sociedad civil registrado en el período que abarca el informe anterior continuó hasta finales de 2024, y muchos de ellos pidieron la reanudación de las negociaciones y la reunificación, así como la apertura de nuevos puntos de paso, pese a la continua frustración y a la duda subyacente de que siguiera siendo posible una solución negociada.

10. Por último, los dos dirigentes también se reunieron oficiosamente en Nicosia el 10 de diciembre, en la recepción de fin de año ofrecida por el Asesor Especial Adjunto.

IV. Situación del proceso: actividades de la misión de buenos oficios del Secretario General

11. La misión de buenos oficios del Secretario General siguió promoviendo el contacto, la cooperación y el fomento de confianza intrainsulares y colaborando con asociados internacionales en las actividades de la misión. El Asesor Especial Adjunto celebró 54 reuniones con los dos dirigentes y sus representantes, con partidos políticos, líderes religiosos, organizaciones de la sociedad civil, incluidos mujeres y grupos de jóvenes, la Unión Europea, el Banco Mundial y la comunidad diplomática, así como con altos funcionarios visitantes de diversos Estados Miembros.

12. El diálogo con los representantes de ambas partes prosiguió a tres niveles: reuniones convocadas por el Asesor Especial Adjunto con el negociador grecochipriota y el representante especial turcochipriota; reuniones convocadas por la misión de buenos oficios del Secretario General con los coordinadores turcochipriota y grecochipriota de los comités técnicos; y reuniones convocadas por los facilitadores de las Naciones Unidas de los 12 comités técnicos; en los comités estaban representados miembros de ambas comunidades.

13. Se celebraron reuniones casi semanales entre el Asesor Especial Adjunto, el negociador grecochipriota y el representante especial turcochipriota para apoyar a la labor de los 12 comités técnicos, debatir otras cuestiones de interés mutuo y apoyar a ambas partes en las conversaciones sobre los puntos de paso tras la cena informal del Secretario General el 15 de octubre. Estas reuniones periódicas facilitadas por la misión de buenos oficios del Secretario General proporcionaron una vía para que las partes ofrecieran orientación política a los comités técnicos, abordaran cuestiones de interés y contribuyeran a promover la ejecución ininterrumpida de proyectos e iniciativas.

14. Los comités técnicos, creados originariamente en 2008 por los dirigentes de las dos comunidades en el contexto del proceso de paz para mejorar la vida cotidiana de los chipriotas, siguieron reuniéndose y trabajando bajo los auspicios de la misión de buenos oficios del Secretario General. Con el apoyo de la UNFICYP, la misión de buenos oficios coordinó y facilitó la labor de los comités, con el fin de que se mantuviesen el diálogo y la cooperación entre ambas partes y se afrontasen problemas y asuntos comunes importantes.

15. Las actividades de los comités técnicos prosiguieron en un nivel constructivo pese a la habitual ralentización del período estival, con un total aproximado de 100 reuniones celebradas en todos los comités. Si bien algunos comités, como los de radiodifusión, igualdad de género, asuntos humanitarios y gestión de crisis, experimentaron demoras, mientras que otros, como los de medio ambiente, patrimonio cultural, cultura y puntos de paso, pusieron en marcha nuevas iniciativas y/o mantuvieron un contacto periódico.

16. El Comité Técnico sobre Medio Ambiente se mantuvo activo de junio a diciembre, con proyectos en distintas fases de ejecución, a saber, “Exploración del patrimonio geológico de la isla de Chipre”, “Cuidadores del medio ambiente: capacitar a los jóvenes en materia de medio ambiente” y “Preservación de la biodiversidad: análisis del uso de veneno en hábitats salvajes remotos”. En noviembre se aprobó una propuesta de proyecto para estudiar y elaborar respuestas a las plagas que podrían devastar los cítricos y otros cultivos a lo largo y ancho de la isla.

17. El Comité Técnico sobre Cultura trabaja en varias iniciativas dirigidas a reunir a artistas de ambos lados. Está en marcha la puesta en práctica de “Canales hacia la cultura y la cooperación”, un sitio web que facilitará el intercambio de experiencias e información sobre asuntos culturales en toda la isla.

18. El Comité Técnico sobre Patrimonio Cultural supervisó la restauración de varios lugares de importancia cultural e histórica durante el segundo semestre del año, entre ellos la mezquita de Evdim y la iglesia de Avios Theodoros. Además, el 25 de octubre, el Comité puso en marcha un programa educativo interactivo sobre el patrimonio cultural compartido para jóvenes grecochipriotas y turcochipriotas.

19. El Comité Técnico sobre Puntos de Paso se reunió periódicamente y finalizó los debates sobre un proyecto de ampliación del actual punto de paso de Agios Dometios/Metehan, en Nicosia, donde se producen demoras persistentes por falta de vías y personal suficientes para el control de documentos. Se prevé que la ejecución del proyecto comience en septiembre de 2025. Una vez finalizada, se prevé que la ampliación de ese punto de paso en particular facilite considerablemente la circulación entre ambas orillas.

20. El Comité Técnico sobre Educación creó un grupo focal para proponer proyectos educativos conjuntos, como un proyecto para promover los contactos y una mayor cooperación entre estudiantes de ambas comunidades en todos los niveles educativos relacionados con el medio ambiente y el desarrollo sostenible. Los miembros del Comité también intercambiaron material didáctico para la enseñanza de la historia en sus comunidades. A pesar de la suspensión por parte del norte de la participación del Comité en el proyecto de educación para la paz “Imagine”, esta iniciativa, que goza de mucha popularidad, continúa pero ahora está siendo ejecutada por organizaciones de la sociedad civil.

21. El Comité Técnico sobre la Salud organizó un acto de su proyecto de enfermedades transmitidas por vectores sobre los mosquitos, mientras que el Subcomité Veterinario tardó en ocuparse de la cuestión de los animales domésticos que cruzan la Línea Verde, pero finalmente inició los debates en la segunda quincena de noviembre.

22. El Comité Técnico sobre Asuntos Económicos y Comerciales se reunió periódicamente para debatir formas de propiciar el comercio intrainsular. El Comité Técnico sobre Delincuencia y Asuntos Penales siguió disfrutando de una buena cooperación e intercambio de información sobre asuntos penales entre ambas partes en el marco de las Salas de Comunicaciones Conjuntas del Comité. Siguieron estancados proyectos importantes, como el protocolo de comunicaciones y respuesta ante catástrofes del Comité de Gestión de Crisis y la iniciativa “Cambiar a la energía verde” del Comité Técnico sobre Radiodifusión y Telecomunicaciones.

23. Ambas partes observaron que los Comités Técnicos sobre Asuntos Humanitarios y de Igualdad de Género necesitaban un estímulo adicional para reunirse con más regularidad y ser más activos, dado que los Comités sólo se han reunido, respectivamente, una y dos veces, durante el período que abarca el informe. Además, el Comité Técnico sobre Igualdad de Género requería mayor apoyo político para llevar adelante la aplicación del “Plan de acción relativo a las formas de garantizar la participación plena, igualitaria y significativa de las mujeres en el proceso de solución o en un futuro proceso de solución”.

24. Desde 2019, el apoyo continuo prestado a través del mecanismo de apoyo, administrado por el Programa de las Naciones Unidas para el Desarrollo (PNUD), ha facultado a los comités para encargar estudios, organizar eventos y poner en marcha otros proyectos *ad hoc*, aumentando el impacto y la visibilidad de su trabajo. El mecanismo de ayuda se prorrogó un año más.

25. Con el objetivo de solucionar el aislamiento energético que sufre toda la isla, durante el período que abarca el informe prosiguieron las conversaciones con ambas partes sobre una posible central solar conjunta en la zona de amortiguación. Un estudio de prefactibilidad presentado anteriormente preveía una planta fotovoltaica

con el apoyo financiero de la Unión Europea si se acordaba el proyecto. Esa central contribuiría a aumentar la cooperación intraindustrial en el sector energético, impulsaría la transición ecológica en ambos lados y allanaría el camino para otros proyectos de energía solar a lo largo y ancho de la isla. Su finalización dependerá de la flexibilidad para abordar las inquietudes de ambas partes.

26. La misión de buenos oficios del Secretario General siguió apoyando la participación plena, significativa y efectiva de las mujeres en todas las iniciativas de pacificación y consolidación de la paz en Chipre. En particular, en el período que abarca el informe anterior se ha mantenido la paridad de género alcanzada en la composición de los comités técnicos. Las mujeres de la sociedad civil, procedentes de todo el espectro político de ambas partes, se han unido cada vez más para promover una solución urgente a la cuestión chipriota. Un ejemplo de ello es la Coalición Bicomunal de Mujeres de Chipre, con el apoyo de la Embajada de Irlanda. La Coalición realizó una visita de trabajo a Belfast (Reino Unido) y Dublín en septiembre para conocer mejor el proceso de paz que dio lugar al Acuerdo del Viernes Santo.

27. Durante el período que abarca el informe se celebró un mayor número de sesiones informativas de la misión de buenos oficios del Secretario General para representantes de la comunidad internacional residentes en la isla y para miembros de delegaciones visitantes en comparación con períodos recientes, lo que refleja un repunte del interés por el proceso de paz de Chipre tras la labor de la Enviada Personal en el primer semestre del año y la cena informal del Secretario General del 15 de octubre. Además, se mantuvo el interés de la misión por generar oportunidades de interacción con grupos de estudiantes y jóvenes adultos, de la isla o visitantes del extranjero. Esa interacción contribuyó significativamente a la concienciación y a la formación de opinión entre estos grupos demográficos, en consonancia con el programa sobre juventud, paz y seguridad y los esfuerzos por fomentar la participación constructiva de los jóvenes.

28. Se lograron avances significativos en el aprovechamiento del deporte como herramienta para fomentar el entendimiento mutuo y acabar con los prejuicios. El 15 de octubre, la misión de buenos oficios del Secretario General acogió la primera proyección de “Winds of Change”, un documental que recoge la histórica circunnavegación de Chipre en 2023 por un grupo de jóvenes greco y turcochipriotas. La proyección del documental atrajo a un público numeroso y diverso, muchos de los cuales rara vez tienen la oportunidad de interactuar. Un espíritu de unidad similar surgió con el lanzamiento de otra iniciativa deportiva centrada en el tenis playa, que reunió a jóvenes de ambas comunidades. Con el apoyo del PNUD, la misión de buenos oficios ayudó a Runite, una asociación bicomunal de corredores, a organizar la primera carrera de costa a costa de la isla. En el marco de ese evento, el 23 de noviembre dos grupos de corredores partieron de Kyrenia (en el norte) y Larnaca (en el sur) para llegar a Nicosia, en una iniciativa dirigida a fomentar las relaciones interpersonales entre la gente de las dos partes.

29. La idea de preservar los lazos económicos existentes intraindustriales, fomentando al mismo tiempo otros nuevos, también siguió siendo un mensaje destacado de la misión durante el período que abarca el informe. El 3 de octubre, en la sesión inaugural del Quinto Foro Chipriota, uno de los mayores eventos políticos, el Asesor Especial Adjunto pronunció un discurso de apertura. Este tema fue objeto de una atención aún mayor en las consultas entre las Naciones Unidas y el Banco Mundial celebradas en octubre. Para resolver los problemas comerciales, en particular los relativos a asuntos bancarios y financieros, la parte turcochipriota propuso la creación de un comité técnico.

30. Durante el período que abarca el informe, el comercio reglamentado de la Línea Verde alcanzó cerca de 13 millones de euros a finales de octubre de 2024, un nivel ligeramente inferior al del período correspondiente de 2023.

31. Los dos grupos de trabajo sobre la consolidación de la paz medioambiental y los negocios, la innovación y la iniciativa empresarial, liderados conjuntamente por la misión de buenos oficios del Secretario General y la UNFICYP, siguieron reuniéndose periódicamente. Ambas misiones apoyaron la Conferencia Local de la Juventud celebrada en Nicosia en agosto de 2024, previa al 29º período de sesiones de la Conferencia de las Partes en la Convención Marco de las Naciones Unidas sobre el Cambio Climático, al que también asistieron los copresidentes del Comité Técnico sobre el Medio Ambiente. La misión de buenos oficios también apoyó los talleres de los Jóvenes Paladines de las Naciones Unidas para el Medio Ambiente y la Paz, celebrados en octubre. En los talleres se prestó ayuda a 24 jóvenes participantes de ambas comunidades, fomentando los contactos y un mayor entendimiento, y mejorando sus habilidades para abogar por una acción medioambiental bicomunal relacionada con la construcción de la paz, y para establecer y gestionar proyectos, que la UNFICYP está apoyando. El grupo de trabajo sobre emprendimiento, empresa e innovación mantuvo su compromiso con la promoción del debate y la sensibilización sobre la expansión del comercio intrainsular, centrándose en los jóvenes empresarios, especialmente en sectores menos explorados como el sector de la moda.

V. Observaciones

32. Pese a los esfuerzos realizados durante el período correspondiente al informe anterior por mi Enviada Especial, que trabajó intensamente con las partes e hizo participar a un amplio grupo de actores —tanto en la isla como a escala internacional—, lamentablemente no han surgido puntos de convergencia entre los dirigentes sobre la forma de avanzar en la cuestión de Chipre. Sin embargo, celebro que ambos líderes hayan convenido algunas medidas constructivas durante la cena informal que convoqué el 15 de octubre de 2024. Durante la cena, también alenté a los líderes a estudiar la forma de salvar las distancias entre sus posturas y restablecer la confianza para hacer posible un movimiento que lleve a un acuerdo. Si bien reconozco los tristes aniversarios del último año, exhorto a todos los chipriotas a que se focalicen en el futuro, a fin de evitar un estancamiento perpetuo.

33. Es también importante, en esta fase y tras las conclusiones de mi Enviada Personal, tener una visión crítica del camino a seguir mediante una reunión oficiosa más amplia con las partes y con las Potencias garantes. Exhorto a todas las partes interesadas a considerar seriamente cómo garantizar que este próximo compromiso, que ha suscitado la esperanza entre los chipriotas de que aún es posible una vía mutuamente aceptable, siga siendo abierto y constructivo.

34. Mientras tanto, aliento a las partes a que demuestren un espíritu de compromiso con respecto a las discusiones relacionadas con los puntos de paso, ya que un acuerdo sobre esta cuestión sería una señal significativa de voluntad política antes de cualquier reunión de formato más amplio. Con este propósito, tal como se acordó en octubre, alentaría también a los dirigentes a reunirse en Chipre para estudiar la posibilidad de abrir nuevos pasos en el momento oportuno. En los últimos años se ha registrado en la isla un número récord de grecochipriotas y turcochipriotas que cruzan entre ambos lados. El aumento del número de puntos de paso, combinado con las demoras crónicas, ha provocado largas esperas constantes, aunque evitables, que afectan a los viajeros habituales, a los trabajadores, a los estudiantes y a las iniciativas por comerciar entre ambas partes. Aliento a los dos dirigentes a que suscriban sin demoras un acuerdo sobre los puntos de paso. Además, son alentadoras las obras que se están

llevando a cabo en el marco del Comité Técnico sobre Puntos de Paso para ampliar y mejorar el punto de paso de Agios Dometios/Metehan, que representa la mayor parte del tránsito entre ambas partes. Debe obtenerse financiación adecuada y las partes deben avanzar rápidamente en la ejecución del proyecto.

35. Felicito a los comités técnicos activos por los importantes logros alcanzados durante el periodo de referencia. Aunque todos los comités siguen siendo un marco establecido y aceptado por ambas partes, y es loable que sigan funcionando pese a la ausencia de negociaciones activas, siguen existiendo ciertas limitaciones al progreso estrechamente ligadas a la voluntad política de los dirigentes. Además, a menudo se desconocen las importantes contribuciones de los comités, y a veces hay reticencia por parte de las partes a dar a conocer su trabajo al público en general. Hago un llamamiento a los dirigentes para que presten un mayor apoyo político a la labor de los comités.

36. Agradezco el continuo apoyo de la Unión Europea a los comités técnicos, a través de su mecanismo de apoyo, administrado por el PNUD, y acojo con beneplácito la decisión de financiar el mecanismo de apoyo durante un año más, hasta finales de 2025. Hago un llamamiento a los dirigentes y a sus representantes para que velen por que se saque pleno provecho de ese apoyo, de mutuo acuerdo y en beneficio de todos los chipriotas.

37. Una vez más, me hago eco del llamamiento del Consejo de Seguridad en favor de una mayor colaboración con la sociedad civil e insto a los dos dirigentes a que fomenten el contacto y la cooperación entre ambas comunidades. Hago un llamamiento a los dirigentes a que busquen también una cooperación y unos vínculos más integradores entre las dos comunidades ahora y, en última instancia, en el proceso de paz, y a que den cabida e impliquen efectivamente a las mujeres, las minorías, los jóvenes y las personas con discapacidad en los debates en relación con un futuro común en la isla e incorporen sus puntos de vista en consecuencia. Los participantes en las actividades de divulgación emprendidas por mi misión de buenos oficios se han mostrado sistemáticamente muy interesados en interactuar con sus dirigentes políticos respecto a cuestiones importantes y han puesto de manifiesto el valor de una mayor inclusividad.

38. Dado que la participación significativa de las mujeres aumenta las posibilidades de que se alcancen y mantengan soluciones políticas, los dirigentes deberían, con carácter prioritario, aplicar las recomendaciones pertinentes del plan de acción sobre cómo garantizar la participación plena, equitativa y significativa de las mujeres en el proceso de solución/un eventual proceso de solución, incluso garantizando que sus delegaciones que participen en conversaciones sobre posibles negociaciones futuras incluyan no más de dos tercios de cualquier sexo. Aunque los 12 comités técnicos han alcanzado la paridad de géneros en su composición, debe darse prioridad sin demora a la recomendación del plan de acción de que los líderes compartan información pública sobre los beneficios de un acuerdo, para reforzar el contacto y fomentar la confianza entre turcochipriotas y grecochipriotas, incluida la identificación de una plataforma efectiva para un acercamiento sostenido y regular a las organizaciones de la sociedad civil, las mujeres y los jóvenes. Resulta claro, no solo en Chipre como a nivel mundial, que sólo cuando las mujeres participan en la formulación de soluciones políticas a los conflictos de manera igualitaria puede alcanzarse una paz sostenible.

39. El comercio intrainisular y el aumento de los lazos económicos, como forma de reconectar a dos comunidades separadas durante décadas, siguieron ocupando un lugar destacado en las actividades de divulgación y promoción de la misión. Esos esfuerzos sólo pueden desarrollar plenamente su potencial con claras señales de apoyo desde los niveles más altos de cada comunidad. Por ello, lamento los persistentes

obstáculos al comercio regulado de la Línea Verde. Insto a que se aborden con urgencia esos obstáculos y retos en materia bancaria y financiera.

40. Insto a ambas partes a explorar la cooperación deportiva para acercar a los jóvenes y fomentar la interacción entre las dos comunidades. La formación de un comité técnico conexo a este respecto sigue siendo una medida viable.

41. Me preocupan las persistentes acciones unilaterales de ambas partes en la zona de amortiguación y sus alrededores, que podrían alterar permanentemente el *statu quo* militar de la zona y que no favorecen el proceso de paz en sentido amplio. Además, me sigue preocupando la situación en la zona vallada de Varosha y observo que la posición de las Naciones Unidas sobre Varosha no ha cambiado. Recuerdo las decisiones del Consejo de Seguridad, en particular en sus resoluciones [550 \(1984\)](#) y [789 \(1992\)](#), y recalco la importancia de adherirse plenamente a ellas.

42. Felicito a los Gobiernos de Grecia y de Türkiye por su firme compromiso con la promoción de unas relaciones de vecindad pacíficas. El compromiso de buscar vías de comunicación, pese a los desacuerdos de larga data sobre cuestiones concretas, también sirve de ejemplo para el proceso de paz de Chipre. Considerando el importante papel y la responsabilidad que las Potencias garantes Grecia, Türkiye y el Reino Unido tienen en el contexto chipriota, aliento a todos ellos a que sigan instando a los dos dirigentes de Chipre a que entablen un diálogo y busquen un camino a seguir mutuamente aceptable con la voluntad política, la creatividad y la apertura al compromiso necesarias.

43. Sigo comprometido a mantener el contacto y el diálogo con las partes, así como con las Potencias garantes, en busca de un camino hacia una solución pacífica, y sigo guiándome por las resoluciones pertinentes del Consejo de Seguridad que han establecido los parámetros de las Naciones Unidas.

44. Quisiera expresar una vez más mi agradecimiento a los asociados, en particular a la Unión Europea y al Banco Mundial, que han seguido prestando apoyo a la labor de ambas misiones de las Naciones Unidas en Chipre, al PNUD y al Comité sobre las Personas Desaparecidas en Chipre, y que han contribuido a la aplicación de las medidas de fomento de la confianza. Por último, quisiera dar las gracias a mi Asesor Especial Adjunto y al personal de mi misión de buenos oficios en Chipre por la dedicación y el compromiso con la que abordan su trabajo.

Annex I

Written update by the Greek Cypriot leader to the Good Offices Mission of the Secretary-General, pursuant to and in accordance with UNSCR 2723 (2024)

This submission is made in response to the encouragement in UN Security Council Resolution 2723 (2024), to *“the leaders of the two communities to provide written updates every six months to the Good Offices Mission of the Secretary General on the actions they have taken in support of the relevant parts of this resolution since its adoption, in particular with regard to paragraphs 7, 8, 9 and 10, with a view to reaching a sustainable and comprehensive settlement ...”*.

The present update includes all developments relevant to the effort to resume the peace process in the framework of the Good Offices Mission of the United Nations Secretary General. References to communities are without prejudice to the Republic of Cyprus as a Member State of the United Nations and references to UNFICYP are made without prejudice to the Republic of Cyprus as the Force’s host country.

I. Efforts to resume the peace process

It is my steadfast conviction that a solution to the Cyprus problem on the mutually agreed federal basis endorsed by the UN Security Council constitutes the only viable and sustainable path forward, which can secure the vital interests of Cyprus and all Cypriots. At the same time, it is the only path towards ensuring and safeguarding security and stability in the wider Eastern Mediterranean region. This parameter is of fundamental significance in light of the ongoing regional and international geopolitical developments.

I reiterate my commitment to the peaceful solution of the Cyprus problem exclusively on the basis prescribed by relevant UN Security Council Resolutions, the High-Level Agreements and in line with the UN Charter.

I reaffirm my commitment to the *acquis* of the negotiations and the body of work, that has been accomplished up until the closure of the Conference on Cyprus in Crans Montana, in July 2017, which comprises the agreed basis of a bi-zonal, bi-communal federation with political equality as prescribed in relevant UN Security Council Resolutions, the convergences achieved on all negotiating chapters and the six points presented by the UN Secretary General in Crans Montana.

I wish to express my utmost appreciation to the UN Secretary General for his steadfast commitment and to his Personal Envoy Ms. María Angela Holguín Cuéllar for her efforts towards charting a positive path for the resumption of a formal process of negotiations for a solution to the Cyprus problem. We are also profoundly grateful to the UN Security Council for its steadfast support.

I have genuinely engaged with the Personal Envoy throughout her mission, with a view to enable the accomplishment of her task in the context of the UN Secretary General’s good offices mission and the mandate prescribed by UN Security Council Resolutions. I repeatedly expressed my readiness to meet with the leader of the Turkish Cypriot community under the auspices of the Personal Envoy, with a view to expediting discussions and providing an impetus to the effort to achieve progress. Unfortunately, this had proved unattainable, due to persistent refusal by Mr Tatar.

The Personal Envoy presented her report to the UN Secretary General in July 2024, following which the UNSG suggested to hold a meeting under his auspices,

between myself and the leader of the Turkish Cypriot community, to discuss the way forward. Successive attempts to set a date for this meeting during the months of August and September were met with the same obstacles, namely the lack of willingness and the employment of delaying tactics on behalf of the Turkish Cypriot side.

The UNSG's concerted effort, which we fully supported, finally made it possible to hold the meeting in New York on 15 October.

I took part in the meeting with a positive spirit and I have tabled proposals with a view to facilitating the UNSG in his effort to chart a positive way ahead. I expressed my readiness to continue to work with the Personal Envoy in the period ahead, however her mission could not be renewed due to the refusal of the Turkish Cypriot side.

Despite the obstacles, agreement was found on the UNSG proposal to convene under his auspices, an informal meeting in a broader format in the near future, to discuss the way forward. We have also agreed to meet in Cyprus to explore the possibility of opening new crossing points.

I stand ready to immediately engage on next preparatory steps, with a view to ensuring that the broader meeting will be successful, ideally by leading to the formal resumption of negotiations or at least to the identification of next tangible steps towards that end.

During the discussion that took place at the dinner, I expressed my readiness to inter alia, proceed with: (i) the establishment of an additional Technical Committee on Youth, a proposal that was made by Under-Secretary General Ms. Rosemary DiCarlo during her visit to Cyprus in March 2023, (ii) the establishment of a civil society consultative body under the title "Coming Together" with a view to further promoting the participation of civil society in the peace process, and (iii) the establishment of a "Truth Commission for Cyprus".

All of the aforementioned proposals were rejected by Mr Tatar.

With regard to the opening of new crossing points, upon returning to Cyprus, we initiated the discussion in the context of the meetings that take place between our representatives. From our part, we immediately submitted our proposals. Once again, the response of our counterparts, has, so far, led the effort to a standstill, because the Turkish Cypriot side wishes to set a precondition for the prior construction of the Arsos-Pyla road. This is tantamount to a selective and one-sided implementation of the relevant understanding that was reached last year, following the move forward by the Turkish Forces and the assault against UN peacekeepers that was unequivocally condemned by the UN Security Council. I recall that the said understanding inextricably entails both the construction of the road and the creation of a residential zone in the area, and that the sticking point inhibiting its implementation has been the Turkish Cypriot side's retraction from the construction of the residential zone.

Despite these obstacles, I have expressed my readiness and have requested the United Nations to convene a meeting between myself and Mr Tatar, to discuss ways to overcome challenges and to achieve results.

I remain steadfastly committed to continuing the effort towards the promotion of a wider positive atmosphere between all involved, including further initiatives in the context of EU – Türkiye relations, and beyond. In the EU context, Türkiye's own constructive engagement will be instrumental in advancing the various areas of cooperation.

The participation of Türkiye's Foreign Minister Mr. Fidan in the informal meeting of EU Foreign Affairs Ministers in Brussels last August, as well as the opportunities that I had to meet with Türkiye's President Mr. Erdogan and Foreign Minister Mr. Fidan in Budapest on 7 November in the margins of the European Political Community summit, as well as once more with Mr Fidan in Baku on 12 November, in the context of COP29, were steps in the right direction, both in terms of substance and in relation to their symbolism, and they constitute proof that an alternative paradigm in our relations can be both feasible and mutually beneficial. Moreover, the Republic of Cyprus has not blocked the candidacy of Türkiye for the post of the Secretary General of the OSCE. It is noted that our candidacy for the Chairpersonship of the OSCE for 2027 has been tabled.

In the same spirit, we continue the implementation and further enhancement of our supportive policies towards our Turkish Cypriot compatriots, ensuring that they are able to enjoy to the largest possible extent the benefits that they are entitled to, as citizens of the Republic of Cyprus, and as citizens of the EU. These measures concern the areas of facilitation of access to government services and benefits, applications for citizenships, response to pharmaceutical needs and medical services, facilitation of crossings of persons through the authorized crossing points, covering the full operational cost of the bi-communal sewerage plant after their persistent failure to cover the agreed share after cost, facilitation of enhanced access to religious monuments. On the issue of trade, six additional products have been added to the list of processed-foods of non-animal origin that can be traded under the EU's Green Line Regulation. The value of Green Line Trade reached a new record-high of €16.046 million in 2023 (€14.6 in 2022), reflecting steady increase and growth. Their implementation is yet another manifestation of our concrete determination to work for a conducive environment towards reaching a breakthrough, and is additional to an array of benefits and programs already available to our Turkish Cypriot compatriots.

Regrettably, the creation and cultivation of a positive environment, conducive to the resumption of negotiations, continues to be impeded by Türkiye's policies which raise tensions and create new *faits accomplis* on the ground.

This approach is manifested, *inter alia*, by the following:

- i. The continuation of Türkiye's refusal to uphold the commitment to the agreed basis of bi-zonal, bi-communal federation with political equality, and the active promotion of the position for "sovereign equality" and "equal international status", which essentially amounts to a call for a "two-state" solution, in clear violation of the UNSC Resolutions
- ii. The systematic and deliberate public rhetoric, which is aimed at undermining the prospects for the resumption of the peace process.
- iii. The continued refusal and lack of compliance with relevant UNSC Resolutions calling for the return of Varosha to its lawful inhabitants and the continuation of efforts to "open the city as part of the 'trnc'", along with a continued reported limitation on the movement of UNFICYP therein.
- iv. The continuation of "moves forward" into the buffer zone, south of the Turkish Forces' ceasefire line. Violations reported in the UNSG Report on UNFICYP's operations in July 2024 continue uninhibited.
- v. The continuous threats to proceed with the construction of a road in the buffer zone in the Pyla area, linking the occupied areas with the TK15 advanced position of the Turkish Forces, in violation of the status quo and the understanding reached in October 2023. I wish to recall the assault against UN

Peacekeepers in the area in August 2023, that was strongly condemned in the UNSC Press Statement of 21 August 2023.

vi. The continuation of efforts in pursuit of the international upgrading of the illegal secessionist entity, contrary to international law and relevant UN Security Council Resolutions, in particular [541\(1983\)](#) and [550\(1984\)](#), which provide that the declaration of the so-called “trnc” is legally invalid and call on all states not to recognize, facilitate or in any way assist the aforementioned secessionist entity.

vii. The persistence of the Turkish Cypriot side to demand the conclusion of a “Status of Forces Agreement (SOFA)” with the UN, in conjunction with threatening to curtail UNFICYP’s activities in the occupied areas. This runs contrary to the legally binding principle that such agreements are being concluded only between the UN and the governments of UN Member States that host peacekeeping operations; in this case, the Republic of Cyprus, as enshrined in UN Security Council Resolution [186\(1964\)](#) and reaffirmed in numerous subsequent Resolutions.

viii. The illegal exploitation of properties in the occupied part of Cyprus belonging to Greek Cypriot displaced persons, has also continued unabated, and seems to have acquired new dimensions via the systematic promotion of “foreign real estate investment”, contrary to fundamental principles of International Law and relevant rulings by the European Court of Human Rights in a multitude of cases. Apart from the flagrant illegality of such actions, this constitutes yet another attempt to solidify the illegal *fait accompli* and to further curtail prospects for a solution by permanently altering the property situation.

ix. The continuation of the upgrading of Türkiye’s military capabilities and infrastructure in the occupied part of Cyprus, - including through the creation of a naval and drones base - that does not only impact the situation in Cyprus, but also the military equilibrium and security in the Eastern Mediterranean region.

Against this backdrop, I wish to highlight the critical importance, especially at this sensitive juncture, for the UN Security Council to call on Türkiye and the Turkish Cypriot leadership to respect the basis for a solution as prescribed in the relevant Resolutions, and to stop impeding efforts towards the creation of a positive perspective.

Of equal importance is the need to refrain from additional provocations and violations, both on the ground (buffer zone, Varosha, occupied areas) but also in the maritime zone of the Republic of Cyprus.

Having in mind the serious challenges for peace and security in the broader region and around the globe, I reiterate my strong determination to spare no effort in pursuit of a breakthrough that would lead us to a resumption of negotiations and the achievement of a solution on the basis prescribed by UN Security Council Resolutions. I earnestly hope that all other involved parties will engage in a spirit of good will towards this end, pursuing win-win solutions that will guarantee the legitimate interests of all Cypriots and will serve the indispensable need for an era of peace, prosperity, security and stability in the Eastern Mediterranean.

II. Effective mechanism for military contacts

Given the need to defuse tensions, I maintain my readiness to discuss the establishment of a mechanism for military contacts between the opposing forces in Cyprus, facilitated by UNFICYP.

Such a mechanism will comprise the National Guard and the Turkish occupation forces, at the level of their Commanders or their designated representatives, facilitated by UNFICYP at the respective level, in accordance with its mandate as prescribed by UN Security Council Resolution 186(1964).

Establishing the mechanism can be helpful, taking into account the continuous violations of the relevant UN Security Council Resolutions in Varosha, violations and provocative actions along the buffer zone, the obstructions and interference on behalf of the Turkish occupation forces to UNFICYP's ability to perform its duties, and the continuous upgrading of Türkiye's military infrastructure in the occupied part of Cyprus.

III. Committee on Missing Persons

The work of the Committee on Missing Persons in Cyprus (CMP) remains a fundamental aspect of the peace process and the support of all parties is indeed imperative. To draw attention and to express support to the vitally important humanitarian work of the CMP, upon my initiative, a joint visit by myself and Mr Tatar to the anthropological laboratory of the CMP took place on July 28, 2023 and a joint call has been issued to accelerate the process of location, exhumation and identification of remains of missing persons.

Türkiye has a legal and an ethical obligation to provide information from its archives , so as to help determine the fate of missing persons in Cyprus. Full information must include primary locations of burial of missing persons, as well as secondary locations given that a great number of remains were intentionally relocated. Türkiye also has an obligation to protect those burial sites, against construction and rehabilitation of the ground and to provide the CMP with full and unhindered access to those areas.

Given the critical passage of time, I wish to reiterate my call for information from all countries and organizations that had a military or police presence in Cyprus in 1963, 1964 and 1974, and might be in possession of relevant archives.

It is also imperative for the Turkish Cypriot side to engage more constructively and to contribute towards addressing the existing imbalance in the ratio of identifications of missing persons.

IV. Technical Committees

The Technical Committees continue their work under UN auspices aiming to alleviate the daily life of people from the adverse effects of the status quo, within the framework of their terms of reference as agreed between the leaders of the two communities since 8 July 2006. Their work constitutes an integral part of the peace process and subsequently of the overall effort for a solution.

Being fully aware of the importance attached by the UNSC to the aspect of women's full, equal and meaningful participation in the peace process, I reaffirm my commitment to ensure - including through further appointments - that the Greek

Cypriot membership of the Technical Committees will adhere to gender parity, and that the participation of youth is going to be further increased.

During the reporting period, the Technical Committees continued to undertake a number of initiatives further building on their important work and have continued to benefit from the invaluable support provided through the financial Support Facility funded by the European Union, for which I would like to reiterate my appreciation.

Regrettably, there have been cases of their work being impeded, as a result of attempts by the Turkish Cypriot side to use the Technical Committees as vehicles for the promotion of cooperation between “separate administrations” in the overall context of its “two states” policy. This approach has led to delays, setbacks and even the suspension of certain projects, in particular those that bear greater potential to contribute towards a more conducive environment and to have wider outreach and impact among the society and subsequently towards the strengthening of the prospect for a solution and reunification.

The most indicative example remains the Technical Committee on Education, where, despite our repeated calls and by the UN and international partners, the Turkish Cypriot side has yet to reverse the decision it took in October 2022 to suspend its participation in the award-winning peace education project “Imagine”, and continues to hamper the implementation of another project aimed at developing lesson modules that promote peace and reconciliation through education. Since its first launch in October 2017, “Imagine” has provided the opportunity to thousands of students and hundreds of teachers in both communities to take part in this peace education effort, and is widely recognized as having made a very significant contribution to the promotion of a culture of peace and reconciliation.

In relation to the workings of other Committees, the Technical Committee on Culture is implementing ideas from the follow-up networking event bringing together Greek Cypriot and Turkish Cypriot artists. The creation of a website to highlight the work of the Technical Committee is also continuing.

The Technical Committee on Crossings continues its work in the direction of improvement of the operation of existing crossing points. Recently, the Technical Committee has agreed on a plan to improve the road network at the Ayios Dometios crossing point.

The Technical Committee on Gender Equality has continued its work on the implementation of the recommendations included in the Action Plan for women’s full, equal and meaningful participation in the peace process.

The Technical Committee on Economic and Commercial Matters continues discussions on ways to further advance trade through the “Green Line Regulation” and on other issues of economic and trade nature.

The Technical Committee on Crime and Criminal Matters has maintained a well-functioning channel for contact and communication through the Joint Contact Rooms (JCRs), in the effort to effectively respond to criminal activity.

The Technical Committee on Health has further continued its exchange of information relating to infectious diseases, including the monitoring of epidemics and dangerous mosquito species. It has also continued to provide a channel to respond to requests on behalf of the Turkish Cypriot community for the provision of certain medicines and health treatments.

The Technical Committee on Crisis Management has continued discussions on a simplified proposal submitted by the Greek Cypriot members for a crisis response procedure, prescribing the steps to be undertaken for effective response in the event

of a natural or human-caused disaster, and has initiated a discussion on earthquake preparedness and response.

The Technical Committee on the Environment has maintained engagement on a variety of issues such as the exchange of information on tackling threats to trees and crops posed by a variety of pests, and, in this regard, a project with the name “Enhancing Resilience: A Methodological Approach to Coordinated Pest Management” has recently been approved. It has maintained a steady output of work while undertaking regular visits to areas of environmental interest, recording needs and implementing projects previously approved, including the cleaning of water sources for wildlife.

The Technical Committee on Telecommunications and Broadcasting continues its work to implement the project “Transition to Green Energy: The Future of Electronic Telecommunications”, while maintaining a channel to address radiofrequency interference.

The Technical Committee on Humanitarian Issues has resumed its meetings and is expected to soon be able to present tangible progress in its work.

The Technical Committee on Cultural Heritage continues its outstanding work for the restoration of monuments of Cyprus’ cultural heritage. The Committee has rightfully received broad acknowledgement and recognition over the years, and should be further supported in order to be able to continue and further enhance its important work.

Lastly, I concur with the Secretary General’s assessment in the Report on his Good Offices Mission of July 2024, that *“While underscoring the importance of the work of the technical committees and the positive impact that confidence-building measures could have, I believe that only genuine progress towards reaching a consensus starting point for negotiations leading to a mutually acceptable settlement will reassure Cypriots as well as the international community that a peaceful and shared future on the island truly remains possible.”*

Annex II

Actions taken by the Turkish Cypriot Side in support of the relevant parts of the Security Council Resolution 2723 (2024)

The past six months witnessed many ups and downs. Since I have submitted the written update on the actions taken by the Turkish Cypriot Side in support of the relevant parts of the Security Council Resolution last June, two things remained constant; my unwavering commitment to a negotiated settlement of the 61-year-old Cyprus issue and the rigid stance of the Greek Cypriot side. Let me explain.

This period marked the end of the tenure of the UN Secretary-General's Personal Envoy, Ms María Angela Holguín Cuéllar, on 12 July 2024. The Personal Envoy concluded that there is no common ground between the two Sides to start a new and formal negotiation process.

Right before the completion of her sole mandate, which was to explore whether common ground exists or not between the two Sides to start a new and formal negotiation process, I met Ms. Holguín in London on 1 July 2024.

At this last meeting, I understood that she used her tenure to comprehend the real intention of the Greek Cypriot leadership, which excludes a common future based on equality with us, the Turkish Cypriot Side. She had all the evidence before her to reach the conclusion that the sole aim of the Greek Cypriot side was the preservation of its usurped status and, at best, the assimilation of the Turkish Cypriot People into their rule. It is the very status they hijacked 61 years ago which continue to provide for their current comfort zone and enables the Greek Cypriot leadership to pursue its policies of oppression and isolation. This has been the reason why they have been categorically rejecting any attempts towards status equalization and cooperation for the good of our Island and of our Peoples.

At this juncture, I would like to take this opportunity to express my appreciation to the UN Secretary-General, His Excellency António Guterres and his Personal Envoy for the efforts to pursue the realisation of 3Ds (direct trade, direct flights and direct contacts) courageously throughout her mandate. I put forward the 3Ds as the initial steps for the manifestation of our sovereign equality and equal international status, the reaffirmation of which is essential to start a new and formal negotiation process on this basis. Clearly, there cannot be any justification for preventing my People from enjoying their basic human rights, including direct trade, direct flights, and direct contacts.

On her part, Ms. Holguín has persistently pursued the lifting of the unjust isolation on my People, starting with the 3Ds, as acknowledged by her interlocutors. My expectation, in respect to the realization of 3Ds, has been from the international community, as 3Ds are part of our inherent rights and not open to negotiation with the Greek Cypriot side or subject to their consent. This was a litmus test for the international community to demonstrate its sincerity towards changing the *status quo*, which it deems to be unacceptable and unsustainable. While I cannot apportion blame to the ongoing resistance to implement 3Ds, I can say with confidence that both the international community and the Greek Cypriot side joined forces in ensuring the continuation of the *status quo*.

The appointment of the Personal Envoy could have contributed to a positive atmosphere. Nevertheless, it immediately prompted the Greek Cypriot side to take actions to negate this possibility. This can be the only conclusion we can draw from the resurrection of the hostile policy of the Greek Cypriot side at the same time,

threatening individuals with criminal punishment for their lawful property dealings in the TRNC. A grand scheme has been put into practice, targeting foreign investors in my country, with the main goal of ruining our economy. The tools they have been employing include taking statements under duress, intimidation through threats of imprisonment, and mongering fear. One such symbolic case is a 74-year-old investor who continues to be unlawfully “detained” since June 2024 and is facing 242 counts of “trespass-related” crimes concerning his investments in real estate in the TRNC. Needless to say, he has conducted his activities in accordance with the laws in force in the TRNC which the European Court of Human Rights found to be compliant with international law.

By apprehending foreign property investors, the Greek Cypriot side is also intimidating those involved in the other main sectors of our economy, threatening foreign tourism operators not to organise tours to our side, discrediting our universities, and inciting fear of detention amongst Turkish Cypriots whilst using the crossing points by enforcing domestic laws in violation of international law. This also has the potential to adversely affect the already fragile trust between the two Sides which is the very essence of a sustainable future on the Island.

Nevertheless, I will not be deterred by this gloomy environment. During our last meeting in London with the Personal Envoy, despite the clear absence of common ground, I expressed my readiness to discuss the next steps with my Greek Cypriot counterpart, in a broader format with the participation of the two Motherlands, Republic of Türkiye and Greece.

As this proposal was being entertained by the UN, the Greek Cypriot leadership did not shy away, yet again, from manipulation. First, they officially announced that the mandate of the Personal Envoy was extended. This was followed by more speculation, with official statements alleging the receipt of an invitation from the UN Secretary-General for a leaders’ meeting, prompting a response from the UN denying such an invitation.

On 28 September 2024, I held a bilateral meeting with His Excellency, Mr. Guterres, in New York, within the margins of the 79th session of the United Nations General Assembly. I had the opportunity to explain to the Secretary-General, for whom I have utmost respect, the dignified struggle of my People, and the necessity for the reinstatement of my People’s inherent rights. Given the Personal Envoy’s conclusion revealing the inconvenient truth that there is no common ground to start a new negotiation process, I reiterated my proposal to discuss the next steps and accepted the invitation of His Excellency to host an informal dinner without an agenda with the Greek Cypriot leader, followed by a broader informal meeting with the participation of the two Motherlands.

I attended the agreed informal dinner hosted by the UN Secretary-General together with the Greek Cypriot leader on 15 October 2024 at the UN Headquarters in New York. As it is also clear from the Readout of the Secretary-General issued on the same night, the conclusion drawn by the Personal Envoy is now publicly announced; no common ground exists between the two Sides to start a new and formal negotiation process.

During the informal dinner, we have agreed to have an informal meeting in a broader format in the near future, and to meet on the Island in order to explore the possibility of opening new crossing points.

I would like to reiterate my readiness to attend the informal broader meeting to be hosted by the UN Secretary-General. On new crossing points, I have a standing proposal, also supported by the Chambers of Commerce and the business circles from both Sides, to open the first ever crossing point exclusively for commercial and

economic activities at Haspolat. The Greek Cypriot side is yet to propose a new “crossing point” as they insist on repeatedly rejected proposals before my Presidency on transit passages, through the buffer zone and the military areas. Their so-called proposals contradict the mere philosophy and definition of crossing points that were endorsed by the two sides in 2003. Unfortunately, this rigid stance has the potential of negatively affecting our common goal of increasing people-to-people contact.

For almost 14 months, we have been waiting for the UN to solve the problem that would enable us to complete the Yiğitler-Pile road. As it is well-known, this road is indispensable for the Turkish Cypriot residents of Pile, who live in this village with a special status located in the Buffer Zone, to address their daily humanitarian needs. The series of unfortunate events that started in August 2023 created a huge mistrust on the part of the Turkish Cypriot officials towards the UN. This issue cannot be parked. Upon the completion of Yiğitler-Pile road, we will be ready to explore the possibility of opening Haspolat and Akıncılar crossing points.

I believe change is possible in Cyprus. This can be achieved if my counterpart stops resisting to acknowledge the existence of the factual realities on the ground. There exist two States and two Peoples on the Island. To create a new hope for the Island of Cyprus, we need to try to square the circle, as the UN Secretary-General had aptly put, rather than investing in yet another failure.

Fifty-six years of failure has confirmed to us that federation as a model to settle the Cyprus issue is exhausted. As Ms. Holguin also emphasised in her Open Letter of 7 July 2024: *“We need to move away from solutions that in the past have created expectations that were not met and led to greater disagreements and frustrations.”*

I am sincerely committed to a negotiated settlement.

In this context, a different outcome can only be achieved with the status equalisation of the two Sides, through the reaffirmation of our inherent rights, namely sovereign equality and equal international status.

Until then, it will not be possible to find a common ground.

My vision, first and foremost, is for a peaceful co-existence on the Island. We can only achieve this by working together to foster the creation of a culture of cooperation within the framework of good neighbourly relations. This will create an opportunity for the good of the two Peoples, two States, the Island and the region as a whole. Only then can a final settlement be achieved, naturally and within reason, without any bullying.

Confrontation should not be an option for either Side. I urge the Greek Cypriot side to stop their hostile policies towards my People, and to do it now.

Technical Committees

The Technical Committees, are currently the only platform for formal cooperation and communication between the two sides on issues that affect the daily lives of both the Turkish Cypriot People and the Greek Cypriot People, and that cannot be tackled by one side alone. As such, they are an important instrument of trust building in the island of Cyprus. Hence their potential should be more significantly utilised through the appointment of competent officials with decision-making capacities. I still await my Greek Cypriot counterpart to do so, given the fact that the efficient functioning of the Technical Committees, conducted in a manner that serves the mutual interest of both parties, will not only pave the way for the creation of a conducive atmosphere on the Island, but will also play an important role in fostering a culture of cooperation for a sustainable and peaceful future on the island of Cyprus.

The Technical Committee on Health continued working on the ID AIM (The Mapping Risk of Aedes Invasive Mosquito Spread) project and in this context held a final event in October 2024 at Ledra Palace Hotel. The meetings of the Committee also provided for an opportunity to exchange information on the respective health practices that exists on both sides. The Committee is currently discussing means to cooperate on threats arising from global warming related infectious diseases as well as the possibility of cooperating with other committees in assessing the impact of infectious diseases on tourism and the economy. In the reporting period, the discussions of the Veterinary Subcommittee on the crossing of cats and dogs from the crossing points has reached an important level of maturity.

The Technical Committee on Culture has continued to work on fostering collaboration through cultural exchange. The Committee is currently working on finalising two projects, namely Open Studios and Subtitles for Theatres Projects. Both of these were selected by the Committee from a collection of recommendations made by artists who participated at the Connecting Arts 2 event that took place in May 2024. Preparations regarding the launching of a website are also ongoing.

The Turkish Cypriot members of The Technical Committee on Crisis Management have worked diligently to secure an agreement on the Protocol for Effective Communication and Coordination in Times of Unprecedented Natural and Human Made Crisis. The protocol aims at significantly improving the current practice with well-known defects. Nevertheless, agreement have so far not been possible due to the rigid stance adopted by the Greek Cypriot side. As far as earthquake preparedness is concerned, between June and December 2024, the Turkish Cypriot Side made a number of proposals ranging from the establishment of a committee website with UNDP support to create awareness, the convening of the earthquake subcommittee to examine future cooperation avenues, and the organisation of study visits to high-risk earthquake zones. However, the Greek Cypriot side has not responded to any of these proposals rendering the subcommittee inactive through the said period.

The Turkish Cypriot Side actively contributed to the work of the Technical Committee on Education, showing a commitment to meaningful progress. In the reporting period, the Turkish Cypriot Side proposed enhancing collaboration between universities on both sides of the Island by organizing reciprocal visits for faculty members and developing joint projects on global issues such as environmental sustainability, furthering academic cooperation and involving students progressively.

The Technical Committee on Environment has continued working on the implementation of three projects approved last year, namely Geological Heritage of the Island of Cyprus, Environmental Caretakers and Biodiversity. The Committee also agreed on and implemented a project on cleaning water sources for wildlife. The Committee has very recently agreed on a project which will hopefully enhance cooperation on pest management between the two sides.

The Technical Committee on Humanitarian Matters has continued its meetings and discussed an array of issues. The Turkish Cypriot Side presented a project aimed at creating awareness on the role of individuals in saving water for future generations within a humanitarian perspective.

The Technical Committee on Broadcasting and Telecommunications continued its work on issues regarding FM, TV, civil aviation, mobile communication and frequency bands. The Turkish Cypriot members continued their efforts regarding cooperation on green energy in communication sector and to exchange information to prevent frequency interferences. The Committee could so far not implement the webinar on green energy agreed last year due to the fact that the Greek Cypriot side

tried to challenge the agreed modalities. A breakthrough could finally be achieved as a result of the goodwill demonstrated by the Turkish Cypriot Side.

The Technical Committee on Crossings has agreed on the project aimed at reducing congestion at the Metehan crossing. The project involves adding lanes, a sidewalk, and necessary utilities in the said crossing. It is scheduled for implementation in 2025.

The Technical Committee on Economic and Commercial Matters has continued working to increasing economic and commercial exchanges between the two sides. The project regarding Young Professionals Internship Program could not be implemented due to the fact that no Greek Cypriot applied for internships in companies based in North Cyprus. The issue of exchange of worn-out Euro banknotes continued to present a challenge, with little progress due to the lack of cooperation from the Greek Cypriot side.

The Technical Committee on Crime and Criminal Matters has maintained ongoing cooperation on the handing over criminals and the timely exchange of information related to crimes and criminal matters between the two sides.

The Technical Committee on Gender Equality continues working towards the implementation of the Action Plan with a view ensuring the effective and meaningful participation of women from both sides in the creation of a conducive atmosphere for cooperation and in an eventual settlement process.

The Technical Committee on Cultural Heritage remains dedicated to preserving cultural heritage sites on both sides of the island. The Committee has also strengthened its collaboration with the Technical Committee on Environment, particularly focusing on landscaping efforts around several of its projects. On 25 October, the Committee also launched an Interactive Educational video on cultural heritage.

Disruptive Effect of the Greek Cypriot Education System

There has been no positive change in the education system of the Greek Cypriot side which continues to promote racism and intolerance towards Turkish Cypriots and indoctrinate the young minds with enmity, prejudice, and xenophobia, through educational materials, including textbooks. Strong resistance to change continues to pose an obstacle to building trust and confidence among Turkish Cypriot and Greek Cypriot youth.

The gravity of the problem was evident from the drawings of the Greek Cypriot children on the occasion of the 50th anniversary of 1974 Peace Operation of Türkiye. Greek Cypriot children's output, guided by their teachers, have, once again, vividly illustrated the impact of the Greek Cypriot education system's xenophobic and hatred-infusing programmes.

Obstructionist and Isolationist Policies of the Greek Cypriot leadership

This reporting period witnessed an upward trend in the obstructionist and isolationist policies of the Greek Cypriot leadership towards Turkish Cypriots.

Targeting our economy has been the central goal underpinning these policies. Threats towards the property investors for their lawful dealings in the TRNC is one striking evidence. In the TRNC, Immovable Property Commission, established in 2005 with the guidance of the European Court of Human Rights (ECtHR), continues

to provide effective redress to Greek Cypriot property claimants. The ECtHR-endorsed criteria upon which the Commission decides strike a fair balance between the Greek Cypriot property claimants and those who have acquired rights on such properties. Despite this effectively functioning, internationally-sanctioned property regime, the Greek Cypriot side has been insisting on prosecuting individuals unlawfully, based upon its domestic law which is in clear violation of international law.

Threats towards foreign tourism operators to deter them from organising tours to our side and attempts to discredit our higher education institutions were other state-sponsored actions undertaken by the Greek Cypriot side to harm our economy.

Inhumane restrictions; on the representation of my People at the international fora, on trade and travel, on communication with the outside world, and hampering of participation in the cultural and sporting activities (such as at the Olympics, Eurovision, FIFA and UEFA organizations) have continued the way they have been for the past 61 years, before the very eyes of the international community.

The Committee on Missing Persons (CMP)

I welcome the new Third Member of CMP, Mr. Pierre Gentile, who has assumed his duties on 27 September 2024.

As the Turkish Cypriot Side, we continue to provide unequivocal support to CMP. This assistance includes providing information, access to corroborated burial sites, as well as financial contributions.

Firstly, the Office of the Turkish Cypriot Member continued to have access to the aerial photos dating from 1974 which assists the CMP to make an informed decision on the burial sites to excavate. Since June 2024, the Office of the Turkish Cypriot Member has checked a total of 32 different coordinates in 27 different regions.

Secondly, CMP has excavated in 50 suspected burial sites in the TRNC during this reporting period, 7 of which were in the military areas. Currently, there are 7 excavation teams actively working throughout the Island. There are 6 ongoing excavations in the TRNC, including in military areas, and 1 in the Greek Cypriot side.

Thirdly, in order to ensure CMP has the necessary financial resources to carry out its activities effectively, TRNC has made further financial contributions. In addition to financing the Office of the Turkish Cypriot Member from the TRNC budget, on 31 October 2024, TRNC made a donation of €100,000, bringing the total additional financial assistance provided to CMP to date to a total of €683,000.

On its part, CMP has continued to deliver for the relatives of Turkish Cypriot and Greek Cypriot missing persons who have been waiting to give their loved ones a proper burial. During this reporting period, CMP has identified 4 missing persons on CMP's official list; all of whom were Greek Cypriot.

Status of UNFICYP operations in the TRNC

TRNC Ministry of Foreign Affairs has submitted a counter-proposal on 29 March 2024, upon the request of the UN. The counter-proposal aims at establishing the necessary legal framework on the relationship and the modalities of the operation of UNFICYP within the TRNC and the buffer zone. Our Ministry is expecting an official response from the UN Headquarters.

Hellim/Halloumi

Six more months after the latest update, the Turkish Cypriot producers can still not trade Protected Designation of Origin (PDO)-compliant Hellim/Halloumi to the European Union (EU) market. Following the adoption of the necessary EU legislation over three-and-a-half years ago, the outstanding issues previously identified persist. There is no body that can conduct the necessary Sanitary and Phytosanitary (SPS) checks as it has not yet been appointed since the entry into force of the Commission decision in April 2021. Those Turkish Cypriot producers, with PDO-compliant products, still cannot trade their produce and have to wait for the completion of the bureaucratic processes. Yet, they have to face new challenges due to the unilateral measures introduced by the Greek Cypriot side without their knowledge or consent.

The recent attempt of the Greek Cypriot side to register “Cyprus Red Soil Potato” as a Protected Geographical Indication in the European Union for the benefit of Greek Cypriot producers only, while benefiting from the reputation of the potatoes island-wide, is yet another manifestation of exploiting their status to grab a shared product of the Island.

The ongoing discrimination against Turkish Cypriot producers remains an issue of concern and a reminder to my People of the real intention of the Greek Cypriot leadership when it comes to drawing economic benefits from a common cultural product, registered to address the economic disparity between the two economies on the Island.

Hydrocarbons

I regret to report that the opportunity to turn hydrocarbons into an area of cooperation from that of contention has also been missed for this period. I stand behind my cooperation proposal on the co-owned Hydrocarbon resources, dated 1 July 2022, which remains on the table.

Maraş

The number of applications by former Greek Cypriot inhabitants of Maraş to the Immovable Property Commission (IPC) concerning the properties located in the closed part of Maraş has increased to 518 during this period. IPC has continued to process these pending applications before it.
