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Question of Cyprus

Oceans and the law of the sea

Letter dated 18 November 2021 from the Permanent Representative of Turkey to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

With reference to the letter of the representative of the Greek Cypriot administration of Southern Cyprus dated 13 October 2021 ([A/76/407-S/2021/816](#)), I would like to bring to your attention the following:

First, the Greek Cypriot administration does not represent the whole of the island of Cyprus, as there has been no single authority that is competent to represent jointly the Turkish Cypriots and Greek Cypriots since the Greek Cypriots destroyed the Partnership State in 1963, in material breach of the 1960 Treaties of Guarantee, Alliance and Establishment, and the Constitution. The Greek Cypriot administration cannot therefore claim *de jure* and/or *de facto* jurisdiction or sovereignty over the island as a whole, nor can it make such assertions, by itself, as regards the maritime jurisdiction areas of the island.

Second, Turkey made it clear, through the statement of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs dated 2 October 2020, that, while she has always been on the side of de-escalation and dialogue, she will not negotiate, in the absence of the Turkish Cypriots, maritime delimitation with the Greek Cypriot administration as that entity does not represent the Turkish Cypriots, and that this could only be possible following the settlement of the Cyprus issue. In the meantime, the counterpart of the Greek Cypriot administration is the Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus.

Third, Turkey has made public the outer limits of her continental shelf in the Eastern Mediterranean with geographical coordinates and a map (see annex) through our letter transmitted to the United Nations on 18 March 2020 ([A/74/757](#)).

Fourth, and following on from the third, the Maltese-flagged and Italian-owned survey vessel “NAUTICAL GEO”, being aware of these coordinates, attempted to enter the Turkish continental shelf on multiple occasions for seabed-related survey activities without obtaining prior consent and authorization from Turkey, despite all diplomatic demarches having been timely lodged with the flag State and operator



State of the said vessel, as well as the subsequent hails made at sea in accordance with international practice, with due consideration to safety of navigation at sea.

Fifth, it should also be noted that the Turkish Cypriot side, as the co-owner of the island having equal rights over its offshore resources, made proposals to the Greek Cypriots, most recently on 13 July 2019, to establish a cooperation mechanism, including equitable revenue-sharing, on offshore hydrocarbon resources. As in previous cases, this latest proposal is fully supported by Turkey, as it will provide a prompt solution to the tensions stemming from the ongoing offshore programmes of both sides on the island.

Turkey therefore rejects the arguments and allegations of the Greek Cypriot administration in their entirety.

I would be grateful if the present letter could be circulated as a document of the General Assembly, under agenda items 44 and 78, and of the Security Council, and published on the website of the Division for Ocean Affairs and the Law of the Sea, as well as in the next edition of the *Law of the Sea Bulletin*.

(Signed) Feridun H. **Sinirlioğlu**
Permanent Representative

Annex to the letter dated 18 November 2021 from the Permanent Representative of Turkey to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

Geographical coordinates of the outer limits of the Turkish continental shelf in the Mediterranean

