



Conseil de sécurité

Distr. générale
14 janvier 2025
Français
Original : anglais

Rapport du Secrétaire général sur sa mission de bons offices à Chypre

I. Introduction

1. Dans sa résolution [2726 \(2024\)](#), le Conseil de sécurité a prié le Secrétaire général de lui présenter d'ici au 3 janvier 2025 un rapport sur sa mission de bons offices, notamment sur les progrès accomplis pour parvenir à un point de départ consensuel en vue de négociations constructives, axées sur les résultats et propres à aboutir à un règlement. Dans cette résolution, le Conseil a également engagé les dirigeants des communautés chypriote grecque et chypriote turque à tenir la mission de bons offices du Secrétaire général informée, par écrit, des mesures qu'ils auraient prises à l'appui des dispositions applicables de la résolution depuis son adoption, en particulier en ce qui concerne les paragraphes 7 à 10, en vue de parvenir à un règlement global et durable et prié le Secrétaire général de faire figurer les informations ainsi reçues dans son rapport. On trouvera ces informations aux annexes I et II du présent rapport.

2. Le rapport porte sur les faits nouveaux survenus durant la période du 13 juin 2024 au 11 décembre 2024 et rend compte des activités menées dans le cadre de la mission de bons offices du Secrétaire général conduite sous la direction du Conseiller spécial adjoint pour Chypre, Colin Stewart, ainsi que des interactions entre le Secrétaire général et les parties.

II. Principaux faits nouveaux

3. S'appuyant sur le travail de son envoyée personnelle pour Chypre, María Ángela Holguín Cuéllar, qui a achevé ses fonctions en juillet, le Secrétaire général s'est entretenu avec les deux dirigeants et les puissances garantes, à savoir la Grèce, la Türkiye et le Royaume-Uni de Grande-Bretagne et d'Irlande du Nord. À la suite de ces discussions, il a convié le dirigeant chypriote grec, Nikos Christodoulides, et le dirigeant chypriote turc, Ersin Tatar, à un dîner informel à New York le 15 octobre.

4. Les dirigeants ont convenu d'organiser prochainement une réunion informelle de plus grande envergure, sous les auspices du Secrétaire général, afin de discuter de la voie à suivre. Ils ont également convenu de se rencontrer à Chypre pour étudier la possibilité d'ouvrir de nouveaux points de passage. Au cours de la période considérée, les deux parties ont commencé à discuter de cette question, sous les auspices de l'Organisation des Nations Unies.



5. La rencontre informelle du 15 octobre a été saluée des deux côtés de l'île et a suscité chez les Chypriotes l'espoir de voir les deux dirigeants chypriotes progresser vers la reprise du dialogue sur la question de Chypre. La perspective de l'ouverture de nouveaux points de passage a également été accueillie favorablement dans les deux communautés. En outre, la perspective d'une réunion informelle de plus grande envergure incluant les puissances garantes a suscité un regain d'attention pour le processus de paix, alimenté le débat public et donné lieu à des spéculations sur les éléments de fond de la question de Chypre.

III. Historique et contexte

6. La Grèce et la Türkiye, puissances garantes, ont continué d'œuvrer à l'amélioration des relations à différents niveaux, notamment au moyen de réunions régulières entre dirigeants. Les deux capitales ont réaffirmé à plusieurs reprises qu'elles étaient résolues à continuer de renforcer leurs relations. Ce rapprochement est encourageant, leur soutien constructif au processus de paix étant une condition essentielle au règlement de la question chypriote.

7. Les représentantes et représentants des partis politiques chypriotes grecs et chypriotes turcs ont continué de se réunir régulièrement sous les auspices de l'ambassade de Slovaquie ; 15 partis provenant de toute l'île y ont participé. Dans leurs communiqués conjoints, les partis politiques ont souligné la nécessité d'améliorer le climat politique, d'apaiser les tensions et de reprendre les négociations. Les participants aux réunions ont affirmé qu'à leur sens, le statu quo actuel, qui était insatisfaisant, pouvait se débloquer si les dirigeants des deux communautés prenaient de nouvelles initiatives. Le Conseiller spécial adjoint a participé à une réunion entre les deux parties le 23 octobre afin de discuter de la situation politique actuelle, du contexte du processus de paix à Chypre et des mesures de confiance.

8. Dans le cadre du volet religieux du processus de paix à Chypre, placé sous les auspices de l'ambassade de Suède, les efforts se sont poursuivis pour développer la coopération entre les dirigeants des différentes communautés de croyants et d'institutions confessionnelles vivant de part et d'autre de l'île, en particulier les dignitaires chrétiens et musulmans. Le volet religieux a également continué à plaider pour que les communautés de croyants aient accès à leurs lieux de culte, y compris les cimetières, et qu'elles en assurent l'entretien. Au cours de la période considérée, la Force des Nations Unies chargée du maintien de la paix à Chypre (UNFICYP), en collaboration avec le volet religieux, a facilité deux pèlerinages à la mosquée Hala Sultan Tekke à Larnaca, qui ont vu plus de 1 150 pèlerins du nord passer au sud de l'île. Les forces de l'ordre des deux parties ont facilité ces déplacements. Au cours des dernières années, seul un autre pèlerinage avait été effectué vers ce site revêtant une importance particulière pour les musulmans, ce qui montre qu'il s'agit là d'une avancée non négligeable. Dans le cadre du Pacte mondial sur les réfugiés, le volet religieux a coopéré avec le Haut-Commissariat des Nations Unies pour les réfugiés à Chypre, des organisations de la société civile et des communautés confessionnelles pour venir en aide à des réfugiés et à des demandeurs d'asile.

9. L'augmentation de l'activité de groupes de la société civile enregistrée au cours de la période précédente s'est poursuivie jusqu'à la fin de 2024. Malgré la frustration persistante et les doutes quant à la possibilité de parvenir à une solution négociée, nombre de ceux-ci ont demandé la reprise des négociations et la réunification ainsi que l'ouverture de nouveaux points de passage.

10. Enfin, les deux dirigeants se sont également rencontrés de manière informelle à Nicosie le 10 décembre lors de la réception de fin d'année organisée par le Conseiller spécial adjoint.

IV. État d'avancement du processus : activités de la mission de bons offices du Secrétaire général

11. La mission de bons offices du Secrétaire général s'est appliquée à promouvoir les contacts et la coopération intra-insulaires ainsi que l'instauration de la confiance dans l'île et s'est entretenue avec des partenaires internationaux au sujet de ses activités. Le Conseiller spécial adjoint a tenu 54 réunions avec les deux dirigeants et leurs représentants, des partis politiques, des responsables religieux, des organisations de la société civile, notamment des groupes de femmes et de jeunes, l'Union européenne, la Banque mondiale et la communauté diplomatique, ainsi qu'avec de hauts responsables venus en visite des capitales de plusieurs États Membres.

12. Le dialogue avec les deux parties s'est poursuivi à trois niveaux, à savoir à l'occasion de réunions organisées par le Conseiller spécial adjoint avec le négociateur chypriote grec et le représentant spécial chypriote turc ; de réunions convoquées par la mission de bons offices du Secrétaire général avec les coordonnateurs et coordonnatrices chypriotes turcs et chypriotes grecs des comités techniques ; de réunions convoquées par les facilitateurs et facilitatrices de l'ONU des 12 comités techniques réunissant des membres des deux communautés représentées dans les comités.

13. Des réunions quasi hebdomadaires se sont tenues entre le Conseiller spécial adjoint, le négociateur chypriote grec et le représentant spécial chypriote turc, l'objectif étant d'appuyer le travail des 12 comités techniques, de discuter d'autres questions d'intérêt commun et de soutenir les deux parties dans les discussions sur les points de passage à la suite du dîner informel organisé par le Secrétaire général le 15 octobre. Ces réunions régulières facilitées par la mission de bons offices du Secrétaire général ont permis aux parties de fournir des orientations politiques aux comités techniques, d'aborder des sujets de préoccupation et de contribuer à promouvoir la poursuite de projets et d'initiatives.

14. Les comités techniques, constitués en 2008 par les dirigeants des deux communautés dans le cadre du processus de paix en vue d'améliorer le quotidien des Chypriotes, ont continué d'organiser des réunions et poursuivi leurs travaux sous les auspices de la mission de bons offices du Secrétaire général. Celle-ci a coordonné et facilité ces travaux avec l'appui de l'UNFICYP, veillant au dialogue et à la coopération entre les deux communautés et traitant les problèmes et les questions communes d'importance.

15. Les comités techniques ont poursuivi leurs travaux de manière constructive, même si leur activité s'est ralentie pendant l'été, comme à l'accoutumée, et ont à eux tous tenu quelque 100 réunions. Si certains d'entre eux, comme ceux consacrés à la radiodiffusion, à l'égalité des genres, aux affaires humanitaires et à la gestion des crises, ont connu des retards, d'autres, comme ceux dédiés à l'environnement, au patrimoine culturel, à la culture et aux points de passage, ont mené de nouvelles initiatives ou continué de se réunir à intervalles réguliers.

16. Le Comité technique de l'environnement est resté actif de juin à décembre et a mené des projets à des degrés différents, dont un projet sur l'exploration du patrimoine géologique de Chypre (« Exploring the geological heritage of the island of Cyprus »), un projet visant à donner des moyens d'action aux jeunes pour en faire des garants de l'environnement (« Environmental caretakers: empowering youth on environment ») et un projet de préservation de la biodiversité consistant à analyser l'utilisation du poison dans les habitats fauniques éloignés (« Preserving biodiversity: analysing poison use in remote wildlife habitats »). Une proposition de projet visant à étudier et à mettre au point des solutions au problème des parasites susceptibles de dévaster les agrumes et d'autres cultures sur l'île a été approuvée en novembre.

17. Le Comité technique de la culture travaille actuellement sur plusieurs initiatives qui réuniraient des artistes des deux côtés. Le projet intitulé « Channels to culture and cooperation » (canaux pour la culture et la coopération), qui vise à créer un site Web devant faciliter l'échange d'expériences et d'informations sur les questions culturelles sur toute l'île, est en cours d'exécution.

18. Le Comité technique du patrimoine culturel a supervisé la restauration de divers sites revêtant une importance culturelle et historique au cours du second semestre, notamment la mosquée d'Evdim et l'église d'Avios Theodoros. En outre, le 25 octobre, il a lancé un programme éducatif interactif sur l'héritage culturel commun à l'intention des jeunes chypriotes grecs et chypriotes turcs.

19. Le Comité technique des points de passage s'est réuni régulièrement et a finalisé les discussions sur un projet d'agrandissement du point de passage existant d'Agios Dometios/Metehan à Nicosie, où le nombre réduit de files et le manque de personnel procédant aux contrôles de documents entraînent régulièrement des retards. L'exécution du projet devrait commencer en septembre 2025. Celui-ci devrait faciliter considérablement la circulation entre les deux côtés de l'île.

20. Le Comité technique de l'éducation a créé un groupe de réflexion chargé de proposer des projets éducatifs conjoints, tels qu'un projet visant à promouvoir les contacts et à renforcer la coopération entre les étudiants des deux communautés à tous les niveaux d'enseignement en lien avec l'environnement et le développement durable. Les membres du Comité ont également échangé du matériel pédagogique devant servir à l'enseignement de l'histoire dans leurs communautés. Même si le nord a suspendu la participation du Comité au projet d'éducation à la paix « Imagine », cette initiative très populaire se poursuit et est désormais menée par des organisations de la société civile.

21. Le Comité technique de la santé a organisé une manifestation sur les moustiques dans le cadre de son projet sur les maladies à transmission vectorielle, tandis que le sous-comité vétérinaire, qui avait pris du retard dans l'examen de la question des animaux de compagnie franchissant la Ligne verte, a finalement entamé des discussions au cours de la seconde moitié du mois de novembre.

22. Le Comité technique des affaires économiques et commerciales s'est réuni à intervalles réguliers pour étudier les moyens de faciliter le commerce au sein de l'île. Dans le cadre des salles de communication mixtes du Comité technique de la criminalité et des questions pénales, les deux parties ont continué de coopérer en bonne entente et de partager des informations sur des affaires pénales. Des projets importants tels que le protocole de communication et d'intervention en cas de catastrophe du Comité technique de la gestion des crises et l'initiative de transition énergétique (« Switch to green energy ») du Comité technique des télécommunications et de la radiodiffusion sont restés au point mort.

23. Les deux parties ont constaté qu'il fallait encourager les comités techniques chargés des affaires humanitaires et de l'égalité des genres, qui ne se sont réunis qu'une et deux fois, respectivement, au cours de la période considérée, à se réunir plus régulièrement et à être plus actifs. En outre, il convenait d'accroître le soutien politique au Comité de l'égalité des genres pour faire avancer l'exécution du plan d'action sur les moyens de garantir la participation pleine, égale et véritable des femmes au processus de règlement ou à tout processus de règlement à venir.

24. Depuis 2019, l'appui continu apporté par le mécanisme de soutien, administré par le Programme des Nations Unies pour le développement (PNUD), a permis aux comités de commander des études, d'organiser des manifestations et de mener d'autres projets ad hoc, augmentant ainsi l'incidence et la visibilité de leur travail. Le mandat du mécanisme a été prolongé d'un an.

25. Les discussions avec les deux parties sur une éventuelle centrale solaire commune dans la zone tampon se sont poursuivies au cours de la période considérée, l'objectif étant de remédier à l'isolement énergétique dont souffre l'ensemble de l'île. Dans une étude de faisabilité présentée précédemment, il était envisagé de construire une centrale photovoltaïque avec le soutien financier de l'Union européenne si le projet était accepté. Cette centrale contribuerait à renforcer la coopération sur l'île dans le secteur de l'énergie, favoriserait la transition écologique des deux côtés et ouvrirait la voie à d'autres projets d'énergie solaire sur l'île. Sa construction dépendra de la marge de manœuvre disponible pour répondre aux préoccupations des deux parties.

26. La mission de bons offices du Secrétaire général a continué de soutenir la participation pleine et effective des femmes à tous les efforts de rétablissement et de consolidation de la paix à Chypre. Il est à noter que la parité des genres atteinte au cours de la période précédente dans la composition des comités techniques demeure respectée. Les actrices de la société civile de tous bords politiques coopèrent de plus en plus activement afin de promouvoir un prompt règlement de la question chypriote. La Cyprus Women's Bicomunal Coalition, soutenue par l'ambassade d'Irlande, en est un exemple. Ses membres ont effectué une visite de travail à Belfast (Royaume-Uni) et à Dublin en septembre afin d'en apprendre davantage sur le processus de paix qui a conduit à l'Accord du vendredi saint.

27. Au cours de la période considérée, la mission de bons offices du Secrétaire général a tenu davantage de séances d'information à l'intention de représentantes et représentants de la communauté internationale basés sur l'île et de membres des délégations en visite que lors des périodes précédentes, ce qui laisse transparaître un regain d'intérêt pour le processus de paix chypriote à la suite de l'action menée par l'Envoyée personnelle au cours du premier semestre et du dîner informel organisé par le Secrétaire général le 15 octobre. En outre, la mission a continué de s'employer activement à créer des possibilités d'interaction avec des groupes d'étudiants et de jeunes adultes, qu'ils soient originaires de l'île ou venus de l'étranger. Ces rencontres ont grandement contribué à sensibiliser ces groupes démographiques et à façonner leur opinion, dans la droite ligne du programme relatif aux jeunes et à la paix et à la sécurité et de l'action visant à encourager la participation constructive des jeunes.

28. Des progrès notables ont été réalisés dans l'utilisation du sport comme outil de promotion de la compréhension mutuelle et de lutte contre les préjugés. Le 15 octobre, la mission de bons offices du Secrétaire général a accueilli la première projection de « Winds of Change », un documentaire qui suit un groupe de jeunes Chypriotes grecs et turcs alors qu'ils font le tour de Chypre en bateau en 2023. La projection a attiré un public nombreux venu d'horizons différents, dont beaucoup de personnes qui ont rarement l'occasion d'interagir. Une cohésion similaire s'est manifestée lors du lancement d'une autre initiative sportive axée sur le tennis de plage, qui a rassemblé des jeunes des deux communautés. Avec le soutien du PNUD, la mission de bons offices a aidé « Runite », une association bicommunautaire de course à pied, à organiser la première course reliant un bout de l'île à l'autre. Ainsi, le 23 novembre, un groupe de coureurs est parti de Kyrenia, au nord, et un autre de Larnaca, au sud, pour converger vers Nicosie, l'objectif étant de favoriser les relations interpersonnelles par-delà la frontière.

29. Lors de la période considérée, la mission a également mis l'accent sur l'idée consistant à préserver les liens économiques existants au sein de l'île tout en encourageant la création de nouveaux liens. Cette idée a été mise en évidence lors de la séance d'ouverture du cinquième forum chypriote, l'une des plus grandes manifestations politiques, le 3 octobre, au cours de laquelle le Conseiller spécial adjoint a prononcé un discours liminaire. Elle a encore été mise en exergue lors des consultations tenues en octobre entre les Nations Unies et la Banque mondiale. En

vue de trouver des solutions aux problèmes commerciaux ayant trait en particulier aux affaires bancaires et financières, la partie chypriote turque a proposé la création d'un comité technique.

30. Au cours de la période considérée, les échanges commerciaux menés conformément au règlement relatif à la Ligne verte ont atteint près de 13 millions d'euros à la fin du mois d'octobre 2024, soit un niveau légèrement inférieur à celui enregistré au cours de la même période en 2023.

31. Les deux groupes de travail sur la consolidation de la paix environnementale et sur les affaires, l'innovation et l'entrepreneuriat, dirigés conjointement par la mission de bons offices du Secrétaire général et l'UNFICYP, ont continué à se réunir régulièrement. Les deux missions ont soutenu l'édition de 2024 de la conférence locale de la jeunesse qui s'est tenue à Nicosie en août, en amont de la vingt-neuvième session de la Conférence des Parties à la Convention-cadre des Nations Unies sur les changements climatiques, et à laquelle les coprésidents du Comité technique de l'environnement ont participé. La mission de bons offices a également soutenu les ateliers des Jeunes Champions des Nations Unies pour l'environnement et la paix qui se sont tenus en octobre. Ces ateliers ont favorisé les contacts et une meilleure compréhension entre 24 jeunes issus des deux communautés et ont permis à ceux-ci de développer leurs compétences s'agissant de plaider en faveur d'actions environnementales bicommunautaires en lien avec la consolidation de la paix et de créer et de gérer des projets, avec le soutien de l'UNFICYP. Le groupe de travail sur les affaires, l'innovation et l'entrepreneuriat a continué de travailler sur les moyens de promouvoir la discussion et de sensibiliser à l'expansion du commerce intra-insulaire, en mettant l'accent sur les jeunes entrepreneurs, en particulier dans les secteurs ayant reçu une attention moindre tels que l'industrie de la mode.

V. Observations

32. Il est à déplorer qu'en dépit des efforts déployés au cours de la période considérée par mon envoyée personnelle, qui a travaillé de manière intensive avec les parties et dialogué avec de nombreux acteurs, tant sur l'île qu'au niveau international, aucun terrain d'entente n'ait été trouvé entre les dirigeants sur la manière d'avancer sur la question chypriote. Je me réjouis toutefois que les deux dirigeants aient convenu de prendre certaines mesures constructives lors du dîner informel que j'ai organisé le 15 octobre 2024. Lors du dîner, j'ai également encouragé les dirigeants à réfléchir à la manière de combler le fossé les séparant et de rétablir la confiance en vue de progresser vers un règlement. Tout en gardant à l'esprit les tristes anniversaires commémorés pendant l'année écoulée, j'invite tous les Chypriotes à se concentrer sur l'avenir afin d'éviter de se retrouver dans une impasse perpétuelle.

33. Il est également important, à ce stade et au vu des conclusions de mon envoyée personnelle, d'examiner la voie à suivre de manière critique en organisant une réunion informelle plus large incluant les parties et les puissances garantes. J'exhorte tous les acteurs concernés à réfléchir sérieusement à la manière de faire en sorte que cette prochaine rencontre, qui a fait renaître chez les Chypriotes l'espoir d'un règlement mutuellement acceptable, soit ouverte et constructive.

34. Entre-temps, j'encourage les parties à aborder les discussions relatives aux points de passage dans un esprit de compromis, car un accord sur cette question signalerait l'existence d'une réelle volonté politique avant la tenue d'une réunion plus large. À cette fin, comme convenu en octobre, j'encourage également les dirigeants à se rencontrer à Chypre pour étudier la possibilité d'ouvrir de nouveaux points de passage au moment opportun. Ces dernières années ont enregistré un nombre record de passages d'un côté à l'autre de l'île. Cette augmentation, combinée à des retards

chroniques, a généré de longs temps d'attente, constants mais évitables, qui ont eu une incidence sur les voyageurs journaliers, les travailleurs, les étudiants et les échanges commerciaux entre les deux parties de l'île. J'encourage les deux dirigeants à conclure sans délai un accord sur les points de passage. En outre, les travaux réalisés dans le cadre du Comité technique des points de passage en vue d'agrandir et d'améliorer le point de passage d'Agios Dometios/Metehan, par lequel transite la majorité de la circulation, sont encourageants. Il convient de trouver un financement adéquat et les parties devraient avancer rapidement dans l'exécution du projet.

35. Je salue les réalisations importantes des comités techniques en activité au cours de la période considérée. Bien que tous les comités demeurent un cadre établi et accepté par les deux parties et continuent de fonctionner même en l'absence de négociations actives, ce qui est louable, les progrès restent limités par certains facteurs étroitement liés à la volonté politique des dirigeants. En outre, leurs importantes contributions sont souvent méconnues, et les parties se refusent parfois à promouvoir leurs travaux auprès du grand public. J'exhorte les dirigeants à apporter un soutien politique accru aux travaux des comités.

36. J'apprécie l'appui continu que l'Union européenne apporte aux comités techniques par l'intermédiaire de son mécanisme de soutien, administré par le PNUD, et je me félicite que la décision ait été prise de financer ce mécanisme pour une année supplémentaire jusqu'à la fin de 2025. Je demande aux dirigeants et à leurs représentants de veiller à tirer pleinement parti de ce soutien d'une manière mutuellement convenue et de faire en sorte qu'il bénéficie à toute la population chypriote.

37. Une fois de plus, je me joins au Conseil de sécurité pour demander que le dialogue avec la société civile soit approfondi et j'exhorte les deux dirigeants à encourager les contacts et la coopération entre les deux communautés. J'invite également les dirigeants à se fixer comme objectif de développer une coopération et des liens inclusifs entre les deux communautés dès maintenant et, à terme, dans le cadre du processus de paix, et à engager de réels échanges avec les femmes, les minorités, les jeunes et les personnes en situation de handicap, à les associer véritablement aux discussions relatives à l'avenir commun sur l'île et à tenir compte de leurs points de vue. Les participants aux activités de proximité menées dans le cadre de ma mission de bons offices sont toujours vivement intéressés par la perspective de dialoguer avec leurs dirigeants politiques sur les questions d'importance, preuve de l'utilité d'une plus grande inclusion.

38. Étant donné que les chances de parvenir à des solutions politiques durables augmentent lorsque l'on garantit la véritable participation des femmes, les dirigeants devraient s'efforcer en priorité de mettre en œuvre les recommandations du plan d'action sur les moyens de garantir la participation pleine, égale et véritable des femmes au processus de règlement ou à tout processus de règlement à venir, en veillant notamment à ce qu'aucun des deux sexes ne compte pour plus des deux tiers dans les délégations participant aux pourparlers sur les éventuelles négociations futures. Même si la parité a été atteinte dans la composition des 12 comités techniques, il convient de s'employer à titre de priorité à appliquer la recommandation du plan d'action tendant à ce que les dirigeants mènent des campagnes d'information sur les avantages qui découleraient d'un règlement afin de renforcer les contacts et d'instaurer la confiance entre les Chypriotes turcs et les Chypriotes grecs, notamment en mettant au point une plateforme efficace permettant d'informer la société civile et les organisations de femmes et de jeunes de manière régulière et continue. Il est évident, à Chypre comme dans le monde entier, que ce n'est que lorsque les femmes participent sur un pied d'égalité avec les hommes à l'élaboration de solutions politiques aux conflits que l'on peut parvenir à une paix durable.

39. La mission a continué de mettre l'accent sur le commerce intra-insulaire et sur le renforcement des liens économiques dans le cadre de ses activités de communication et de sensibilisation, l'objectif étant de reconnecter les deux communautés séparées depuis des décennies. Or, ce n'est qu'avec le soutien manifeste des plus hauts responsables de chaque communauté que cette action pourra atteindre à son efficacité maximale. Je regrette donc que des obstacles persistants entravent le commerce mené conformément au règlement relatif à la Ligne verte. Je demande instamment que ces obstacles, ainsi que les problèmes propres aux questions bancaires et financières, soient traités d'urgence.

40. J'invite les deux parties à se pencher sur la coopération sportive comme moyen de rapprocher les jeunes et de favoriser les échanges entre les deux communautés. La formation d'un comité technique à cette fin reste une option viable.

41. Je suis préoccupé par les mesures unilatérales persistantes prises par les deux parties à l'intérieur et à proximité de la zone tampon, qui pourraient modifier de façon permanente le statu quo militaire de cette zone et, plus largement, ne sont pas propices au processus de paix. Je demeure également préoccupé par la situation dans la zone clôturée de Varosha et précise que la position de l'Organisation des Nations Unies reste inchangée à cet égard. Je rappelle les décisions prises par le Conseil de sécurité sur la question, notamment dans ses résolutions 550 (1984) et 789 (1992), et j'insiste sur l'importance de respecter pleinement les dispositions de ces résolutions.

42. Je félicite le Gouvernement grec et le Gouvernement turc de la constance et de la détermination avec lesquelles ils s'emploient à promouvoir des relations de voisinage pacifiques. Leur volonté de continuer d'établir des canaux de communication, malgré les désaccords de longue date qui les opposent sur certaines questions, sert également d'exemple pour le processus de paix à Chypre. Compte tenu du rôle important qu'elles jouent dans le contexte chypriote et de la responsabilité qui leur incombe, j'encourage les puissances garantes que sont la Grèce, la Türkiye et le Royaume-Uni à continuer d'exhorter les deux dirigeants chypriotes à engager un dialogue et à trouver une solution mutuellement acceptable en faisant preuve de la volonté politique, de l'imagination et de l'esprit de compromis nécessaires.

43. Je reste déterminé à maintenir le contact et le dialogue avec les parties, ainsi qu'avec les puissances garantes, pour trouver une voie aboutissant à un règlement pacifique, et je reste guidé par les résolutions du Conseil de sécurité sur la question, dans lesquelles figurent les paramètres fixés par l'ONU.

44. Je voudrais une nouvelle fois remercier les partenaires, notamment l'Union européenne et la Banque mondiale, qui ont continué d'appuyer les travaux des deux missions des Nations Unies à Chypre, du PNUD et du Comité des personnes disparues à Chypre, et contribué à la mise en œuvre de mesures de confiance. Enfin, je tiens à remercier mon conseiller spécial adjoint et le personnel de ma mission de bons offices à Chypre pour le dévouement et l'engagement dont ils ont fait preuve dans le cadre de leur travail.

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.
