



Security Council

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Report of the Secretary-General on his mission of good offices in Cyprus

I. Introduction

1. The Security Council, in its resolution [2723 \(2024\)](#), requested the Secretary-General to submit a report on his good offices by 4 July 2024, in particular on progress towards reaching a consensus starting point for meaningful results-oriented negotiations leading to a settlement. In the resolution, the Council encouraged the leaders of the Greek Cypriot and Turkish Cypriot communities to provide written updates to the Secretary-General's mission of good offices on the actions that they had taken in support of the relevant parts of the 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 and requested the Secretary-General to include the contents of those updates in the report. The updates submitted by the two leaders are contained in annexes I and II to the present report.

2. The report covers developments from 13 December 2023 to 12 June 2024. It provides an update on the activities carried out by the Secretary-General's mission of good offices under the leadership of the Deputy Special Adviser on Cyprus, Colin Stewart.

II. Background and context

3. On 5 January 2024, the Secretary-General announced the appointment of María Ángela Holguín Cuéllar as his Personal Envoy on Cyprus to assume a good offices role on his behalf to search for common ground on the way forward and advise him on the Cyprus issue. The Secretary-General also continued his engagement with the two respective leaders and met with Nikos Christodoulides and Ersin Tatar during the reporting period.

4. Continuous engagement between the Secretary-General's mission of good offices and the two communities was sustained throughout the reporting period, including through bilateral engagements with the two leaders and their representatives. There were challenges to convening the regular trilateral meetings between the representatives of the two leaders and the Deputy Special Adviser on Cyprus, with a gap from late March to late May. At the same time, the representatives were consistent in approving projects and addressing issues of mutual interest within the technical committees throughout the reporting period.



5. Meanwhile, military violations in and around the buffer zone by both sides continued unabated, and both sides sought to increase their defensive postures, with the authority of the United Nations Peacekeeping Force in Cyprus (UNFICYP) in the buffer zone increasingly challenged. The implementation of the Pyla/Pile understanding remained suspended as the level of mistrust between both sides remained high, as described in more detail in the report of the Secretary-General on UNFICYP ([S/2024/527](#)).

6. In early March, the Republic of Cyprus, with the support of Germany, Greece, Italy, Netherlands (Kingdom of the), the United Arab Emirates, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland and the United States of America, as well as the European Commission, initiated the establishment of a humanitarian corridor for the delivery of humanitarian supplies to the Gaza Strip. The island has also recorded an increase in the arrivals of asylum-seekers and irregular migrants by boat from the broader region, in particular from Lebanon and the Syrian Arab Republic. For more details, see the report of the Secretary-General on UNFICYP ([S/2024/527](#)).

7. Greece and Türkiye continued to build on their rapprochement through various avenues. Following another meeting between the Prime Minister of Greece, Kyriakos Mitsotakis, and the President of Türkiye, Recep Tayyip Erdoğan, on 14 May 2024, they reconfirmed their commitment to consolidating the prevailing positive climate in the relationship. In the context of the Cyprus issue, the relationship among the guarantor Powers of Greece, Türkiye and the United Kingdom, and in particular between Greece and Türkiye, remains critical.

8. Within the framework of the Religious Track of the Cyprus Peace Process under the auspices of the Embassy of Sweden, efforts continued to be made to further develop the cooperation among clergy of different religious communities and faith-based institutions living on both sides of the island, particularly Christian and Muslim leaders. Religious leaders also cooperated to advance human rights in such areas as the fundamental right to religious freedom or belief. The Religious Track also continued to advocate for the religious communities to have access to and care for their respective places of worship, including cemeteries. Within the framework of the Global Compact on Refugees, the Religious Track cooperated with the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees in Cyprus, the Red Cross and civil society organizations. For the first time in five years, a pilgrimage to the Hala Sultan Tekke mosque in Larnaca took place. For more details, see the report of the Secretary-General on UNFICYP ([S/2024/527](#)).

9. The meetings of representatives of Greek Cypriot and Turkish Cypriot political parties under the auspices of the Embassy of Slovakia continued to be held regularly with the participation of 17 parties across the island. In their joint communiqués, the political parties stressed the need to improve the political atmosphere, de-escalate tensions and return to the negotiating table. In May 2024, the political parties commemorated 35 years of their dialogue by attending a symbolic Tree of Peace planting ceremony in the presence of the Minister for Foreign and European Affairs of Slovakia, Juraj Blanár, United Nations representatives and the diplomatic community on the island.

10. Overall, despite frustrations and disillusionment with the possibility of successful negotiations leading to a comprehensive settlement in Cyprus, there was an increase in civil society groups and initiatives that organized and called for change. This included the Bicommunal Peace Initiative United Cyprus, the Cyprus Peace and Dialogue Centre, and Determination for Peace (Apofasi Irinis), and a civic initiative for an updated peace process design (“C-Up”). In addition, the Cyprus Women Bi-Communal Coalition, a group supported by the Embassy of Ireland, was officially

launched in April 2024, aiming to “champion the critical involvement of women and inclusion of a gender perspective in the Cyprus peace process”.

III. Status of the process: activities of the Secretary-General’s mission of good offices

11. The Secretary-General’s mission of good offices continued to promote intra-island contacts, cooperation and trust-building and to engage with international partners with respect to the activities of the mission. During the reporting period, the Deputy Special Adviser met with each leader once and held 35 meetings with the two leaders and their representatives, political parties, religious leaders, civil society organizations and actors, the European Union, the World Bank and the diplomatic community and with visiting senior officials from Member States’ capitals. The mission also supported visits to the island by the Personal Envoy.

12. Following a two-month gap in regular trilateral meetings at the level of the Deputy Special Adviser, the Greek Cypriot negotiator and the Turkish Cypriot special representative, dialogue was resumed on 30 May where the work of the 12 technical committees was reviewed, including the achievements made, for example in the Technical Committees on Environment and Health. These regular meetings, organized and facilitated by the Secretary-General’s mission of good offices, provided an avenue for the sides to discuss the activities of the technical committees and to provide guidance, address issues of concern and contribute to increasing the momentum of the activities and promoting the continued implementation of projects and initiatives.

13. The technical committees formed by the leaders of the two communities continued to meet and work under the auspices of the Secretary-General’s good offices mission, albeit with mixed results. With UNFICYP support, the good offices mission coordinated and facilitated the work of the committees, with a view to sustaining dialogue and cooperation between the two communities and addressing challenges and shared issues of importance. While some of the technical committees continued to achieve progress, others faced challenges in either finding projects and initiatives to pursue or implementing agreed ones.

14. Following repeated calls to the two sides by the good offices mission to proceed with new appointments to the technical committees, on 7 March the Turkish Cypriot side provided the mission with an updated list of new Turkish Cypriot members of technical committees, with increased female and youth representation (55 per cent and 8.5 per cent, respectively). A similar step is expected from the Greek Cypriot side in the near future, the current Greek Cypriot members being 45 per cent women and 10 per cent youth. Overall, representation of women in the technical committees has grown in the recent period and is now just over 50 per cent from both communities, while the participation of young people is just under 10 per cent. It is hoped that increased inclusiveness will inject a new drive into the work of the committees.

15. The Technical Committees on Environment, Cultural Heritage, Economic and Commercial Matters, Culture, Crime and Criminal Matters, Broadcasting and Telecommunication, and Health remained particularly active with regular meetings and activities, ongoing implementation of agreed projects and development of new proposals. The Technical Committees on Crossings and Humanitarian Affairs were moderately active. The Technical Committee on Gender Equality was largely dormant until May, when it resumed its activities. Meanwhile, the Technical Committee on Education held its first meeting on 18 December 2023 after two years of inactivity, and the Committee subsequently restarted its monthly meetings.

16. The Technical Committee on Broadcasting and Telecommunication has continued its work to address frequency interference and ensure that the agreements reached are updated and made sustainable. The final elements of the project “Agreement to transition to 5G” were completed in 2024 and have so far allowed 5G to be implemented in the south, with future implementation also planned in the north. The approved project “Switch to green energy: the future of electronic telecommunications” temporarily stalled due to broader political disagreements between the two sides but was resumed in June 2024.

17. The Technical Committee on Crime and Criminal Matters maintained interaction between the two sides on criminal matters, including issues related to irregular migration. Likewise, the Committee’s Joint Contact Rooms (in Nicosia and in Pyla/Pile) continued their cooperation and exchange of information as well as the handover of five suspects during the reporting period. On 5 June, the Committee held a bicomunal seminar on economic cybercrimes focused on vulnerable groups (children and the elderly), following concerns expressed by both sides regarding this growing threat on the island.

18. The Technical Committee on Crisis Management, in the second half of the reporting period, restarted its discussion towards finding agreement on a formal crisis coordination mechanism which would serve as an effective response to natural and human-made disasters.

19. The Technical Committee on Crossings agreed on the enlargement project for the Agios Dometios/Metehan crossing point. Work is expected to start during the next reporting period. The Committee also discussed various issues at individual crossing points and maintained a clear flow of information between the two sides.

20. Implementation of projects by the Technical Committee on Cultural Heritage fully resumed following informal consultations, and the Committee finalized the conservation works for several important sites, including the Venetian aqueduct in Lefke/Lefka, the Hamidiye mosque in Lefkara, the Agios Sergios and Vakhos church in Neta/Taşlıca and the Arif Bey aqueduct in Afanteia/Gaziköy. The Co-Chairs of the Technical Committee met with their counterparts on the Technical Committee on Environment to discuss collaboration and future joint projects (see para. 24 below).

21. The Technical Committee on Culture has started implementation of its project “Channels to culture and cooperation”, a website that will facilitate the exchange of experiences and information on cultural matters across the island and the second phase of the Connecting Arts project. An event entitled “Connecting Arts 2” was held on 25 May. Over 60 Turkish Cypriot and Greek Cypriot artists, academics and experts came together at the event and engaged in inspiring discussions in the areas of music, cinema, literature, folk arts, performing arts and fine arts.

22. The Technical Committee on Economic and Commercial Matters continued to discuss ways to support business interactions and bolster trade across the island. These efforts focused on bank transactions between the two communities and challenges faced by Turkish Cypriots in opening bank accounts in the south. Ongoing discussions also concentrated on advancing the pilot implementation of the young professionals/internships exchange programme, alongside exploring ways to bolster intra-island trade.

23. Following the appointment of a new Turkish Cypriot Co-Chair and new Turkish Cypriot members for the Technical Committee on Education, regular monthly meetings resumed with a view to developing joint educational projects, including a planned review of educational materials. No progress was made, however, in relaunching the Imagine project under the auspices of the Committee in the north or

in implementing the recommendations contained in its 2017 joint report, including with respect to school textbooks, as called for by the Security Council.

24. The Technical Committee on Environment has begun implementation of the projects that were approved in the last quarter of 2023: “Preserving biodiversity – analysing poison use in remote wildlife habitats”, “Environmental caretakers – empowering youth on environment” and “Exploring the geological heritage of the island of Cyprus”. In addition to participation in site visits, including to the area around Mammari to see a micropreserve for native plant species, discussions were held to exchange information and to coordinate on ways to address pest infestation affecting citrus and pine trees on the island. Finally, a proposal for a project to clear a number of water sources in the buffer zone has been approved.

25. The Technical Committee on Gender Equality started meeting again in late May, but little progress was seen with regard to further implementation of the “Action plan on how to ensure women’s full, equal and meaningful participation in the settlement process/an eventual settlement process”.

26. The Technical Committee on Health continued to facilitate the exchange of information between the two sides on several health issues, including measles and tuberculosis. Pursuant to the agreement reached to address the interruption of supply lines through Türkiye following the earthquakes in February 2023, the Greek Cypriots, through the Committee, have continued to address vaccine and medicine needs of the Turkish Cypriots based on priority and availability. During the reporting period, the Committee organized two training sessions, on 29 February and 24 April, on combating *Aedes* invasive mosquitoes and increasing public awareness of the significance of mosquito control.

27. Since its renewed activity began in the last quarter of 2023 after a long hiatus, the Technical Committee on Humanitarian Affairs has been discussing possible projects on disability inclusion and other humanitarian topics of concern to Cypriots island-wide.

28. The second phase of the support facility administered by the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) in Cyprus continued to support the work of the technical committees. On 23 February and 1 March, the mission of good offices and UNDP organized refresher information sessions for all Co-Chairs of the technical committees on the modalities of the second phase of the support facility. The discussions proved fruitful and allowed the participants to share their experiences and encourage each other to formulate new initiatives and proposals. As at 31 May 2024, the total amount spent and committed was approximately €410,000, or 41 per cent of the €1 million allocated to support the technical committees. Since December 2023, eight new projects have been under implementation and two new proposals from the Technical Committees on Environment and Culture have been approved – the first to ensure water sustainability for wildlife by clearing water sources and the second in the area of connecting artists from across the island. In addition, eight projects and initiatives that were approved in 2023 are still in the implementation phase. This phase of the support facility is currently scheduled to end on 15 December 2024.

29. In terms of specific initiatives aimed at bringing the two communities together to mutually benefit from the natural resources of the island, a pre-feasibility study was conducted for the establishment of a bicomunal solar power plant in the buffer zone. The project envisages the installation of photovoltaic panels and storage batteries for up to 37 MW of power. The pre-feasibility study was completed in February 2024, and the results were presented to the Greek Cypriot negotiator and the Turkish Cypriot special representative. The leaders of the two communities have been requested by the European Commission to agree on the parameters for the bicomunal solar power plant and its potential location by September 2024.

30. Outside the technical committees, steps and measures that could build cooperation and trust between the two communities did not progress in a meaningful way during the reporting period, and the sides have not agreed on a forum in which to discuss bigger confidence-building measures, including the cooperation proposals of the Turkish Cypriot leader of 1 and 8 July 2022. The Greek Cypriot leader announced a package of 14 unilateral measures on 26 January 2024 and has since worked on the implementation of the measures.

31. The mission of good offices and the two sides, including representatives of the two Nicosia municipalities, maintain their aspiration to extend the Pedieos/Kanlı Dere linear river park currently in the south and connect it with the one in the north. Although the two sides agreed to make temporary use of the Ledra Palace crossing to allow the project to move forward, no progress was noted during the reporting period.

32. In the area of youth, peace and security, on 24 February the Deputy Special Adviser participated in an event entitled “Olympism for peace”, celebrating the historic circumnavigation of the island by a bicomunal crew of young sailors. Throughout the period, advocacy continued for a dedicated technical committee for youth-related matters or increasing young members across existing committees to ensure that youth voices are heard on various issues, including the peace process. The idea of cooperation through sport to bring young people together and promote interaction between the two communities by means of sports activities, including through the establishment of a technical committee on the matter, continues to be raised with the two sides by the mission of good offices.

33. The mission of good offices has continued to stress the need to preserve existing economic ties across the island while also forging new ones, through an expanded outreach to new constituencies such as industrialists and employers’ associations across the island, as well as private businesses. The Deputy Special Adviser participated in an event hosted by the Embassy of Germany on 13 May, held to facilitate connections among individuals who might not initially consider trading with each other or with the other community. During the reporting period, the mission of good offices also maintained regular contacts with the World Bank on issues of common interest, including on practical ways to utilize intra-island trade to create shared prosperity, in line with the theme of the event in which the World Bank macroeconomic monitoring note on the Turkish Cypriot economy for 2024 was presented, on 16 May.

34. The two working groups – on environmental peacebuilding and on business, innovation and entrepreneurship – jointly led by the good offices mission and UNFICYP, continued to meet regularly. The working group on environmental peacebuilding organized a hybrid event on the role of youth in climate change, anchored in the implementation of the youth, peace and security agenda, with a focus on climate action. During the discussions, participants explored the links between environment, peace and conflict and how youth need to be at the centre of climate diplomacy and peacebuilding. To mark World Environment Day, an event was held on environmental campaigns across the divide and building coalitions. The working group on business, innovation and entrepreneurship held the fourth edition of the business and networking fair with a focus on Cypriot fashion designers from both communities.

IV. Observations

35. The reporting period marked the sixtieth anniversary of United Nations-mandated presences in Cyprus following the events of the early 1960s. It is recalled that last year also marked the 20-year anniversary of the crossings opening and 40

years since Security Council resolution 541 (1983). In 2024, growing frustration at the continued status quo is felt by many across the island and voices are increasingly calling for the two sides to work constructively on a mutually acceptable way forward. The United Nations will continue to stand with all Cypriots to support them in dialogue in order to forge a common way forward.

36. I commend the resumption of meetings and discussions in the technical committees, especially those that had been dormant, the activities that took place and the approval of a number of projects and the completion of others, including under the Technical Committees on Broadcasting, Crime and Criminal Matters, Crossings, Culture, Environment, and Health. The resumption of regular meetings of the Technical Committee on Education provides ground for hope that the recommendations contained in its 2017 joint report will be duly considered and that relevant projects will be implemented, as called for by the Security Council. Further empowerment of this Technical Committee and its important work is encouraged.

37. I continue to call upon the two sides to provide the technical committees with the necessary support and leeway in order to preserve their ability to function, deliver results and address matters with island-wide implications. Increased female and youth representation could inject new drive into the work of the committees. These bodies, where both communities can discuss and address issues of common concern, should be protected and insulated from larger political discussions and problems in and adjacent to the buffer zone.

38. The continuous support of the European Union to the technical committees, through its support facility, administered by UNDP, is welcomed and I appreciate the commitment to sustain the activities of these important bodies on the island. I call upon the leaders and their representatives to ensure that this support is well utilized to the benefit of the daily lives of all Cypriots and urge the European Union to consider extending the availability of resources into the future.

39. European Union support to other projects under discussion, such as the renewable solar energy power plant to be potentially located in the buffer zone, carries significant potential for bringing the two sides closer together for tangible benefits for all, should a mutually acceptable way forward be agreed. The project to extend the Pedieos/Kanlı Dere river path to north Nicosia similarly has significant meaningful potential to bring people from both sides closer together and build trust. In the light of the two sides' agreement to take the project forward, I urge existing and potential future funders to move ahead and support the project with a sense of urgency.

40. I encourage the two leaders and their representatives to discuss, agree and implement mutually acceptable confidence-building measures that can help to build trust and contribute to an environment more conducive to a settlement. They should actively engage in discussions on existing cooperation proposals or new ideas, cooperate to jointly exploit and benefit from common natural resources, promote people-to-people contact, cooperation and trade, ensure that current crossing points function effectively and open new ones. Significant gestures should also be given serious attention for the benefit of the communities and as a critical investment towards a mutually agreeable settlement.

41. I once again echo the Security Council's call for greater engagement with civil society and urge the two leaders to encourage contact and cooperation between the two communities. I call upon the leaders to also aim for more inclusive cooperation and links between the two communities now, and ultimately in the peace process, and to effectively engage and involve women, minorities, youth and persons with disabilities in discussions related to a shared future on the island and incorporate their views accordingly. Participants in the outreach activities undertaken by my mission

of good offices have consistently shown great interest in engaging with their political leadership on issues of importance and have demonstrated the value of greater inclusivity.

42. As the meaningful participation of women increases the chances of political solutions being reached and sustained, the leaders should, as a matter of priority, implement relevant recommendations of the “Action plan on how to ensure women’s full, equal and meaningful participation in the settlement process/an eventual settlement process”, including by ensuring that their delegations participating in talks about possible future negotiations include no more than two thirds of any gender. The rise in the percentage of women participating as members in the 12 technical committees to over 50 per cent is to be commended. The recommendation in the action plan for the leaders to conduct public information-sharing about the benefits of a settlement in order to reinforce contact and build trust between Turkish Cypriots and Greek Cypriots should be prioritized without delay, including by identifying an effective platform for sustained, regular civil society outreach. It is clear, in Cyprus and also globally, that only when women participate in developing political solutions to conflicts in an equal manner can sustainable peace be reached.

43. I urge the two sides to explore the concept of sports cooperation to bring young people together and foster interaction between the two communities. The formation of a technical committee in this regard remains a viable course of action.

44. A focus on intra-island trade and increasing economic ties continued to be at the forefront of the mission’s outreach and advocacy efforts. Expanding trade and business links can not only address some of the most pressing concerns of Cypriots across the island but also contribute to improving the overall political climate. The period under review saw the continuation of a trend observed in my last report, with an increase in public events and official interactions designed to be used as catalysts to disseminate the message that expanding trade and business links, and ensuring the infrastructure and enabling conditions to support them, is one way to enhance confidence in a settlement. Forging greater economic activity between the communities on the island not only makes good business sense but can also have important positive impacts on the lives of Cypriots and can pave the way towards a greater public acceptance of a mutually agreeable settlement in the future.

45. The actions by both parties in and adjacent to the buffer zone contributed to raising mistrust and are unhelpful in the current context. The increasing militarization of both sides contradicts the political discourses of the leaders claiming to want a way forward on the Cyprus issue. I reiterate my call for both sides to refrain from such unilateral actions. I also reiterate my concern over the situation in the fenced-off area of Varosha and note that the position of the United Nations on Varosha remains unchanged. I recall the decisions of the Security Council on the matter, notably resolutions [550 \(1984\)](#) and [789 \(1992\)](#), and I underscore the importance of adhering fully to those resolutions.

46. I commend the Governments of Greece and Türkiye for their steadfast commitment to the promotion of peaceful neighbourly relations. The commitment to pursuing channels of communication, despite the prevailing disagreements, also serves as an example for the Cyprus issue. Considering the important role and responsibility that the guarantor Powers Greece, Türkiye and the United Kingdom have in the Cyprus context, I encourage all of them to continue to urge the two leaders in Cyprus to engage in dialogue and to seek a mutually acceptable way forward with the required political will, creativity and openness to compromise.

47. 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. I have maintained contact and dialogue with the parties, as has my Personal Envoy, my senior advisers at United Nations Headquarters and my Deputy Special Adviser. In these efforts, I remain guided by relevant Security Council resolutions that have established United Nations parameters.

48. I would like to thank once again the partners, including the European Union and the World Bank, that have continued to provide support to the work of both United Nations missions in Cyprus, UNDP and the Committee on Missing Persons in Cyprus and have contributed to the implementation of confidence-building measures. Finally, I would like to thank my Deputy Special Adviser, Colin Stewart, and the personnel serving in my good offices mission in Cyprus for the dedication and commitment that they have brought to their work.

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 host country of the Force.

I. Efforts to resume the peace process

From the outset, I reiterate my unwavering commitment to the peaceful solution of the Cyprus problem on the basis prescribed by relevant UN Security Council Resolutions, the UN Charter and the High Level Agreements. I also wish to reaffirm, my readiness to fully preserve and uphold 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 bi-zonal, bi-communal federation with political equality as prescribed in the 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 maintain my steadfast conviction that a solution to the Cyprus problem on the mutually agreed 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 as well as of all actors involved in the Cyprus problem. It is at the same time the only path towards ensuring and safeguarding security and stability in the wider region of the Eastern Mediterranean. This parameter acquires fundamental significance in light of the ongoing regional and international geopolitical developments.

From my part, I have undertaken bold steps in support of the efforts of the UN Secretary General for the appointment of a Personal Envoy – in the context of the Secretary General’s Good Offices Mission. I provided my consent in this regard to the UNSG during our meeting in New York in September 2023 and I regret the fact that the announcement of the appointment had not been possible until January 2024, due to the delaying tactics of the other side.

I express my appreciation for the clear message highlighted by the appointment of Ms. María Angela Holguín Cuéllar, that the UN Secretary General remains firmly committed to providing his good offices to support the effort to create conditions conducive for the reinvigoration of negotiations and for a comprehensive solution. I also express my appreciation to the UN Security Council for its steadfast support.

I had the opportunity to meet with Ms. Holguin on 30 January, 2 February, 11 March, 16 March, 8 May and 13 May during her three visits to Cyprus. I have expressed to her my commitment to do my part towards creating the conditions for

the resumption of negotiations and in this regard, I stated my readiness to meet with the leader of the Turkish Cypriot community under the auspices of the Personal Envoy with a view to initiating a discussion.

In the same spirit, I continued to reiterate my readiness, to work for win-win solutions and to explore factors that can generate a positive agenda for all involved. I pursued this, *inter alia*, through seeking an enhanced role on behalf of the European Union (EU), bearing in mind the fact that the EU can provide tangible incentives for Türkiye, thus reinforcing the UN in the efforts to overcome the deadlock and to reinvigorate the prospect for a solution.

As a result of our persistent effort, the recent European Council of April 2024 has sent a clear positive message to Türkiye with regard to the advancement of the EU – Türkiye agenda in parallel with tangible response on behalf of Türkiye on the Cyprus question. Türkiye’s own constructive engagement will be instrumental in advancing the various areas of cooperation.

At the same time, I stand ready to explore other factors that can have a positive effect.

My Government is implementing the fourteen unilateral measures announced on 26 January 2024, in support of the Turkish Cypriots in the areas of trade, facilitation of access to more 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 operational cost of the bi-communal sewerage plant, facilitation of enhanced access to religious monuments. These measures are yet another manifestation of our concrete determination to work for a conducive environment towards reaching a breakthrough and are additional to an array of benefits and programs already available to the Turkish Cypriot citizens of the Republic

On the issue of trade, since the last report, six additional products have been added to the list of processed-foods of non-animal origin, that can be traded under the Green Line Regulation. The value of Green Line Trade reached a new record-high of €16.046 million in 2023 (€14.6 in 2022) showing a steady increase and growth

I deplore having to note that, to date, the Turkish Cypriot leader has declined even taking part in a meeting under the UNSG’s Personal Envoy. This follows suit on the behavior of prolonged procrastination by the Turkish side as manifested, *inter alia*, through their delays and derailment tactics on the issue of the appointment of the Personal Envoy and the refusal of Mr Tatar to take part in a meeting with myself under the UNSG auspices in New York in September 2023.

In sharp contrast to the imperative need to ensure a positive environment conducive to the resumption of negotiations, Türkiye not only raises tensions, but seeks to create new *faits accomplis* on the ground that seek to undermine and pre-empt the good offices mission of the UN Secretary General.

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

- i. The continuation of its refusal to uphold the commitment to the agreed basis of bi-zonal, bi-communal federation with political equality and the fact that they continue to advocate for “sovereign equality” and “equal international status” which essentially amounts to a call for a “two-state” solution.
- ii. Through the systematic and deliberate provocative public rhetoric evidently aimed at poisoning the atmosphere and undermining the effort for the creation of conducive conditions for the resumption of the peace process. It is worth noting that in response to public criticism expressed from within the Turkish Cypriot community towards this policy, it has been publicly stated by

the Turkish Cypriot leadership that all decisions have the full support of Türkiye.

iii. The continued disrespect and lack of compliance with the 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 of UNFICYP from moving therein.

iv. Continuation of “moves forward” into the buffer zone south of the ceasefire line of the Turkish Forces. Violations reported in the SG Report on the operation of UNFICYP in January 2024 continue.

v. Continuous threats to proceed with the construction of a road in the buffer zone, linking the occupied areas with the TK 15 position of the Turkish Forces, in violation of the status quo and the agreement reached in October 2023. I wish to recall the assault against UN Peacekeepers in the area in August 2023, that was 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 nor 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, threatening to curtail the activities of the UN Peacekeeping Force in Cyprus, 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 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.

ix. The continuation of the upgrading of Türkiye’s military capabilities and infrastructure in the occupied part of Cyprus, that does not only impact the situation in Cyprus, but 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 UNSC 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 and to refrain from additional provocations and violations, both on the ground in the buffer zone and in Varosha and in the occupied areas but also in the maritime zones 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 the negotiations and the achievement of a solution on the basis prescribed by UN Security Council

Resolutions. I earnestly hope that all involved 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 representative, facilitated by UNFICYP at respective level, in accordance with its mandate, as prescribed by the 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 the ability of UNFICYP 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 in good faith, to help determine the fate of missing persons in Cyprus, including information regarding primary locations of burial of missing persons, as well as secondary locations given that a great number of remains were relocated and to provide the CMP with access to those areas. Türkiye also has an obligation to protect those burial sites, against construction and rehabilitation of the ground. This would be a very significant Confidence Building Measure.

Given the critical passage of time and Türkiye's unwillingness to comply, 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 which is currently 49,8% for the Greek Cypriot missing persons and 59,9% for Turkish Cypriot missing persons.

IV. Technical Committees

The Technical Committees continue their work, 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, under UN auspices. 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 am pleased to note that the percentage of Greek Cypriot women members in the Technical Committees has reached 45%, whereas the percentage of youth members is 10%. In this regard, I reaffirm my intention to ensure, – through additional appointments – that the Greek Cypriot members of the Technical Committees will comprise of an equal number of men and women 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 crucial support provided through the renewed 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 hampered, as a result of attempts by the Turkish Cypriot side, to turn the Technical Committees into 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 cancelation 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 repeated calls from our side, 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.

The Technical Committee on Culture continues its work and has recently organized a 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 progressing.

The Technical Committee on Crossings continues its work in the direction of improvement of the operation of existing crossing points. The possible opening of new crossing points has yet to progress due the position of the Turkish Cypriot side that the discussion should be confined only to the one crossing point proposed by them and their refusal to discuss proposals submitted thereto by us.

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 the discussion on ways to further advance trade through the “Green Line Regulation”.

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 facilitate our response to Turkish Cypriot requests for the provision of certain medicines.

The Technical Committee on Crisis Management has held 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 or other crises.

The Technical Committee on the Environment has continued its engagement with a variety of issues such as the exchange of information on tackling threats to trees and crops posed by a variety of pests. It has maintained a steady output of work while undertaking regular visits to areas of environmental interest, has recorded needs and formulated proposals, including for the cleaning of water sources for wildlife.

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

The Technical Committee on Telecommunications and Broadcasting has worked in implementing a project proposal, entitled “Transition to Green Energy: The Future of Electronic Telecommunications”.

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 to continue and to enhance its important work.

Lastly, I would like to concur with the Secretary General’s assessment in the Report on his Good Offices Mission of January 2024, that “*While the work of the technical committees and the positive impact of confidence-building measures is important ... genuine progress towards reaching a consensus starting point for meaningful, results-oriented negotiations leading to a mutually acceptable settlement remains critical.*”

Annex II

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

As the President of the Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus, I am committed to a negotiated settlement of the 61-year-old Cyprus issue.

After a two-year delay due to the Greek Cypriot leader's retraction from agreement, the UN Secretary-General H.E. António Guterres has appointed Ms María Angela Holguín Cuéllar on 5 January 2024 as his Personal Envoy. We agreed to this appointment on the condition that the mandate would not exceed six months and that it would consist solely in exploring whether common ground exists or not between the two Sides to start a new and formal negotiation process. We made this clear to the Secretary-General and through our public statements. Since then, I have been working closely with Ms Holguín.

My first encounter with the Personal Envoy was on 30 January 2024 when she paid her first visit to the Island. During our meeting, I had the opportunity to explain to her in detail the historical context of the Cyprus issue, starting from 1963 with the collapse and transformation of the partnership state of the 1960 Republic of Cyprus into a Greek Cypriot administration, the ongoing injustice resulting from the deprivation of the inherent rights of my People, and the failure of 56-years-long negotiations to secure a settlement on the basis of now exhausted bi-zonal, bi-communal federation, which ultimately led us to formulate our new vision for a settlement.

I briefed the Personal Envoy about our new vision which we shared in Geneva in April 2021 at the 5+UN informal meeting, that is a settlement based on sovereign equality and equal international status, and the cooperation of the two existing States on the Island. I reiterated to Ms Holguín my readiness to engage in a new and formal negotiation process following the reaffirmation of our inherent rights, underlining that *a priori* status equalization is a must for a sustainable future on the Island. I had another chance to get together with her at a dinner to continue our exchange.

The second visit of the Personal Envoy which took place in March 2024 coincided with the commemoration of the 60th anniversary of the deployment of UN force in Cyprus in 1964. Resolution 186 was adopted by the UN Security Council to deploy peacekeeping force in Cyprus (UNFICYP) to stop the targeted attacks and bloodshed against the Turkish Cypriot civilians. Resolution 186 also included elements which awarded the Greek Cypriot perpetrator as the legitimate Government, thereby creating the ongoing unacceptable and unsustainable *status quo* on the Island.

In response to Ms Holguín's request, and as a sign of my support to her mission, I explained the initial steps towards the reaffirmation of sovereign equality and equal international status of the Turkish Cypriot People in concrete terms. In this context, I explained to her in detail the 3Ds, namely the initiation of direct flights, direct trade, as well as direct contacts of the Turkish Cypriot leadership with international counterparts (3Ds). I emphasized that the realization of these 3Ds must be irreversible, not depend on the approval or rejection of the Greek Cypriot side and not be linked with an eventual final settlement. I expressed my readiness to consider to talk with my Greek Cypriot counterpart on how to ensure a just and sustainable future for our Island following the implementation of the 3Ds. I appreciated the Personal Envoy's receptive approach when I requested her to take up 3Ds during her deliberations at the relevant capitals as the onus was on the international community to act towards lifting of the isolation on the Turkish Cypriot People. I explained to

her that the isolation which deprives my People from the enjoyment of their basic human rights has been ongoing because of the unfulfilled undertakings of the international community.

Following the meeting of the UN Secretary-General with the Greek Cypriot leader in Brussels, I have asked for a meeting with the UN Secretary-General in line with the principle of reciprocity. I appreciated to have the opportunity to meet with H.E. Guterres on 5 April 2024 at the UN Headquarters in New York. I informed the Secretary-General about our meetings with Ms Holguín, and shared our expectation on the implementation of the 3Ds. I also raised the necessity of giving a clear message to the Greek Cypriot leadership to put an end to its obstructionist and isolationist policies. I also conveyed to His Excellency my readiness to consider to talk with my Greek Cypriot counterpart on how to ensure a just and sustainable settlement to the Cyprus issue following the implementation of these initial steps.

On 8 May 2024, I met with Ms Holguín during her third visit to the Island. I shared with her my concern regarding the escalating Greek Cypriot oppression against my People, as demonstrated by recent incidents. I underlined to the Personal Envoy that the Greek Cypriot leadership has been pursuing these policies unlawfully and unjustly under the pretext that they are the legitimate Government of the defunct 1960 Republic of Cyprus, with the support of the international community. Since the 1974 Peace Operation, there exists on the Island a *modus vivendi* which the Greek Cypriot side has been trying to render invisible at the international arena. I have also explained that the presence of the Turkish Armed Forces has been the main deterrent factor, ensuring the sustenance of peace and stability on the Island.

When I asked the Personal Envoy to share with me her impressions from her visits to the relevant capitals, she merely mentioned the general support expressed by the relevant parties for a conversation and she suggested a trilateral meeting with the Special Representative and Negotiator to take up this issue. She did not give any information on the deliverability of the 3Ds.

I told the Personal Envoy that 3D's are not subject to a give-and-take, and that we will not negotiate the acknowledgment of our inherent rights with anyone. Furthermore, I clarified that discussing 3Ds with the Greek Cypriot side would give them the opportunity to create the impression that 3Ds are something that can be delivered only with their consent. I reiterated to the Personal Envoy that failure on the part of the international community to take action towards lifting of the isolation would only serve the management of the unsustainable and unacceptable *status quo*. I stressed that if the international community was sincere in their support for a settlement, then they had to stop the Greek Cypriot leadership from abusing the Turkish Cypriot People and take the necessary steps towards lifting the isolation. I also explained to Ms Holguín the elements that I saw instrumental to be addressed in her report to the UN Secretary-General at the end of her mandate so as to leave room for a change in the rules of the game.

I met with Ms Holguín again on 13 May 2024 and expressed my disappointment concerning her remarks to the media even before our scheduled initial meeting. I reminded her about the mutual understanding we have reached upon her request on refraining from communicating through the media. In this context, I drew her attention to her mandate which is with the leaders, and that it is the democratically elected leaders who have the capacity to represent the views of their respective Peoples. I also requested her to pursue our expectations regarding 3Ds.

I am committed to continue to support the Personal Envoy of the UN Secretary-General until the end of her tenure in July 2024. I expect her to report that there is no common ground to start a new and formal negotiation process. Unfortunately, the

escalation of the oppression, obstruction, and isolation on my People after the appointment of the Personal Envoy does not leave much prospect for hope.

Negotiation processes on the same exhausted basis have provided the Greek Cypriot side the pretext to continue to remain in their comfort zone, which they favour over any arrangement in which they would have to share power and prosperity with the Turkish Cypriot side. Their rejection to share power and prosperity with Turkish Cypriots has also been confirmed by the late UN Secretary-General Kofi Annan in his report to the UN Security Council dated 28 May 2004 following the Greek Cypriot rejection of the comprehensive settlement in the separate and simultaneous referenda held on 24 April 2004.

A result-oriented process that will lead to a final settlement of the Cyprus issue once and for all can only be achieved through status equalization.

I expect the Personal Envoy to take a snapshot of the situation and to reflect objectively in her report to the UN Secretary-General the facts on the ground so as to give a chance to a just, fair and sustainable settlement to the Cyprus issue.

Technical Committees

Technical Committees are a valuable tool for cooperation and trust building on the Island. They are a medium for formal communication, as well as the venue for focused dialogue on issues of mutual concern that would otherwise not possibly be dealt with unilaterally in the absence of joint and concerted action of the two Sides.

I support the work of the Technical Committees and I am convinced that their effective and smooth functioning will considerably be improved with the appointment of relevant officials with decision-making capacities enabling them to respond in a timely manner to matters requiring our urgent attention. I once again urge my Greek Cypriot counterpart to do so as a sign of his goodwill and willingness to make the Committees work.

During the reporting period, as I went ahead with the revision of the Turkish Cypriot members of the Technical Committees, I kept this in mind together with the importance of ensuring, to the extent possible, the effective participation of women and youth in line with the UN Security Council Resolution 1325. The Greek Cypriot leader is yet to reciprocate.

The Technical Committee on Environment completed its training project on the pruning of carob trees in the buffer zone. Already agreed three projects mentioned in the previous reporting period are at the implementation stage. A new fast track project aimed at ensuring water sustainability for wildlife in the buffer zone has been agreed. An important achievement of the Committee in this period has been to start dialogue on the citrus bug between the relevant departments of the two Sides. It took, nevertheless, the Greek Cypriot side two months to appoint its expert. As a result of this delay, the Committee could not work on the processionary moth in a timely manner which caused irreparable damage to the pine trees on both Sides of the island.

The Technical Committee on Economic and Commercial Matters has continued discussions on the exchange of worn-out Euro banknotes, which have yet to be resolved due to the non-cooperative approach of the Greek Cypriot side.

The previously agreed project entitled Young Professionals Internship Program is now being implemented. Three Turkish Cypriots have already begun their internships in South Cyprus, but no Greek Cypriot has so far applied to a firm in North Cyprus.

The Committee have continued to discuss ways to increase economic and commercial activities between the two Sides.

No progress could be achieved on the opening of Haspolat crossing point exclusively for economic and commercial activities due to the intransigent stance of the Greek Cypriot side.

The Technical Committee on Culture, as a follow-up to the first, organized the Connecting Arts-2 event on 25 May 2024 that enabled interaction between the Turkish Cypriot and Greek Cypriot artists.

The Technical Committee on Broadcasting had reached an agreement, upon the initiative of the Turkish Cypriot Side, to increase awareness on the impact of energy consumption in telecommunications on the environment to encourage stakeholders to adopt green energy solutions to this end and decided to organize a seminar for this purpose. However, the Greek Cypriot side insisted that sector representatives attend in their personal capacities without disclosing their companies as a result of which modalities on the webinar resulted in delays.

The Technical Committee on Health is currently in the third phase of its vector-borne diseases project, also known as the Mosquito Project, and is working on the West Nile virus, which requires urgent attention. The long-inactive ad-hoc Veterinary Committee has resumed its work at the initiative of the Turkish Cypriot Side. The ad-hoc Committee is currently working to enable the crossing of cats and dogs accompanied by their owners from crossing points.

The Technical Committee on Crisis Management has continued its work on the Protocol for Effective Communication in human-made and natural disasters. Nevertheless, the reluctance of the Greek Cypriot side to move forward on this highly important matter has prevented the Committee from reaching an agreement ahead of the fire season.

The Technical Committee on Crime and Criminal Matters has maintained cooperation on the handing over of criminals and timely information sharing about crimes and criminals. The Committee organized a seminar on cyber-crimes with the participation of experts from both sides on 5 June 2024.

The Technical Committee on Cultural Heritage continues its work on numerous projects aimed at preserving archaeological, religious, and secular cultural heritage monuments and sites on both Sides. An agreement has been reached to start conservation of eight cemeteries, four on each side. Furthermore, the Committee in collaboration with the Technical Committee on Environment decided to work on landscaping around some of its projects.

Strengthened by the newly appointed Turkish Cypriot Members, the Technical Committee on Humanitarian Affairs continues working on disability inclusion, rights of the elderly, and recently the humanitarian aspects of global warming.

The Technical Committee on Gender Equality is working on recommendations to fight stereotyping as regards professions attributed to women on both Sides within the context of the action plan.

The Turkish Cypriot Side has strengthened the Technical Committee on Education and appointed additional Turkish Cypriot Members, including a new Co-chair. The Committee's focus is on creating new projects.

The Technical Committee on Crossings has continued its work on improving the infrastructure at Metehan crossing point on both Sides, which will include a special pedestrian lane through the buffer zone.

Additionally, the lack of a positive response to our proposal to open the Haspolat crossing point, which would significantly contribute to ease the congestion on the Metehan crossing point, is disappointing. We expect that the Haspolat crossing point, which is supported by the business communities on both Sides of the island, will be opened as soon as possible to give a new impetus to economic cooperation.

Disruptive Effect of the Greek Cypriot Education System

The Greek Cypriot education system continues to promote racism and intolerance towards Turkish Cypriots and indoctrinate the young minds with enmity, prejudice, and xenophobia, through educational materials, including textbooks. This major challenge has to be addressed as a matter of urgency if we are to build trust and confidence among Turkish Cypriot and Greek Cypriot youth.

The most recent demonstration of this long-standing policy is a circular issued by the Greek Cypriot “education ministry” on 3 January 2024. Let me share with you the following passage from a poem from which the Greek Cypriot secondary students are invited to draw inspiration within the context of a call for competition:

On the window of the ruined house,
Hangs a baby whose hand is cut off,
Did this child want to say farewell?
Her/His only crime was to wave through the window,
And they cut off his hand!

Additionally, incorporating yet another “commemoration” date into academic calendar breeds further enmity among Greek Cypriot youth towards Turkish Cypriots.

Obstructionist and Isolationist Policies of the Greek Cypriot leadership

During this reporting period, we have witnessed a dramatic surge in obstructionist and isolationist policies of the Greek Cypriot leadership towards Turkish Cypriot People, as well as the Turkish Cypriot Leadership.

The Greek Cypriot leadership is up in arms to obstruct the engagement of the TRNC with the Turkic world. Moreover, they have tried to prevent my participation at the 15th Summit of Heads of State and Governments of the Organisation of Islamic Cooperation (OIC) by blackmailing the OIC Member States unilaterally as well as, through concerted diplomatic demarches with the EU.

These obstructions were accompanied by a publicly announced intimidation campaign against my People, by using EU instruments.

The Greek Cypriot side has been abusing its EU membership to further its obstructionist policies, after the EU has imported the Cyprus issue into the bloc 20 years ago, violating the 1960 international treaties on Cyprus, as well as its own membership criteria, by unilaterally accepting Greek Cypriots as a full member.

Furthermore, the participation of Turkish Cypriot companies to a tourism fair held in Helsinki has also been prevented, as Greece and the Greek Cypriot side intervened and blackmailed the organization with withdrawing from the event.

The Turkish Cypriot People, especially our youth, have to be given a breathing space and allowed to take their rightful place in the international fora. The responsibility falls upon the international community to stop this abusive relationship

perpetrated by the Greek Cypriot leadership which has been ongoing for the past 61 years.

The Committee on Missing Persons

The Committee on Missing Persons (CMP) has continued its effective work during this reporting period.

The exhumations of 37 Turkish Cypriot innocent women and children who were brutally killed and buried at the mass grave in Atlılar were completed by CMP, following delays caused by Greek Cypriot political considerations. The identification process is ongoing.

During the reporting period, we have continued to support CMP by providing it with the information it has requested. In this context, the Office of the Turkish Cypriot Member has continued to have access to the aerial photos dating from 1974 which helps them to assess the credibility of the information at hand prior to making a reasoned decision on exhumation. The Office of Turkish Cypriot Member has checked a total of 45 different coordinates in 32 different regions during this period.

CMP has excavated in 30 suspected burial sites in the TRNC during the reporting period; completed excavations in 3 military areas and there is an additional ongoing excavation in another military area which started on 27 May 2024.

To sustain the continuation of the effective work of CMP, TRNC has been contributing financially. In addition to support provided to the Office of the Turkish Cypriot Member from the budget, the total additional contributions to CMP to date reached EUR 583,000.

CMP has identified 11 missing persons who were on CMP's official list during the reporting period; 2 Turkish Cypriot and 9 Greek Cypriot.

Status of UNFICYP operations in the TRNC

The discussions on a legal framework on UNFICYP operations between the TRNC and the UN have continued during this reporting period. Upon the request of the UN, TRNC Ministry of Foreign Affairs has shared with the UN an official proposal on 29 March 2024 to define in a legal framework the relationship and the modalities of the operation of UNFICYP within the TRNC and the buffer zone.

The evaluation by the relevant departments of the UN is currently underway. Our expectation is to finalize this legal framework as soon as possible.

Hellim/Halloumi

Despite the adoption of enabling EU legislation over three years ago, Protected Designation of Origin (PDO)-compliant Hellim/Halloumi produced by Turkish Cypriots can still not be traded through the Green Line.

All outstanding issues identified during the previous reporting period remain unresolved. A body to conduct Sanitary and Phytosanitary (SPS) checks is still not appointed and the Turkish Cypriot producers who have managed to successfully undergo checks for PDO compliance are facing new challenges due to unilateral changes by the Greek Cypriot side.

The discrimination against Turkish Cypriot producers even on a common, registered product, that was introduced as a tool to diminish the economic disparity between the two economies on the Island, should stop as a matter of urgency.

Hydrocarbons

Hydrocarbon resources, which are co-owned, should be turned from an area of contention to an area of cooperation. The proposal I have submitted on 1 July 2022 remains on the table and should be utilized to foster the needed cooperation on the Island. I stand ready to take up this issue whenever my Greek Cypriot counterpart is ready.

Maraş

Applications by former Greek Cypriot inhabitants to the Immovable Property Commission (IPC) concerning the properties located in the closed part of Maraş has been on the rise. The number of applications has increased to 513 in this period. The proceedings before the IPC on these applications are ongoing.
