



Security Council

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Letter dated 12 June 2024 from the Permanent Representative of Türkiye to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council

I have the honour to transmit herewith a letter dated 10 June 2024, addressed to you by Mehmet Dâna, Representative of the Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus (see annex).

I would be grateful if the present letter and its annex could be circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(Signed) Ahmet Yıldız
Permanent Representative



Annex to the letter dated 12 June 2024 from the Permanent Representative of Türkiye to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council

I am writing in response to the letter of the Greek Cypriot representative dated 14 May 2024 (S/2024/386) regarding the Security Council debate on “Maintenance of international peace and security: the role of young persons in addressing security challenges in the Mediterranean”, which once again blatantly distort facts pertaining to Cyprus. Greek Cypriot representatives have long been exploiting the absence of the Turkish Cypriot side at international platforms in order to mislead the international community and to divert the attention from their sole responsibility for the creation as well as the continuation of the Cyprus problem. Therefore, I am compelled to respond in writing in order to set the record straight.

At the outset, let me underline once again that none of the Security Council resolutions on Cyprus describe the legitimate and justified Turkish intervention in the island, carried out in line with the 1959 International Cyprus Treaties, as “invasion” or its subsequent presence on the island as “occupation”. As is known, guarantor Türkiye had to intervene after 11 years of Turkish Cypriot suffering at the hands of the Greek Cypriot militia, which culminated in the coup attempt organized by the military junta in Athens and its Greek Cypriot collaborators, aiming to annex the entire island to Greece (enosis) and the total annihilation of Turkish Cypriot people. In view of the foregoing, as well as the current human suffering inflicted by recent conflicts worldwide, it is without any doubt that the Guarantee system in Cyprus is more relevant and necessary than ever.

Furthermore, it should be underlined that the Cyprus problem commenced in 1963, not in 1974, when the Greek Cypriot side forcibly usurped the title of the partnership Republic of Cyprus and expelled the Turkish Cypriot partner from all state organs. During the years from 1963 to 1974, a period that Greek Cypriot representatives have conveniently chosen to ignore, the Greek Cypriot militia, aided and encouraged by Greece, took part in an ethnic cleansing campaign against Turkish Cypriots, known as the Akritas Plan, with the ultimate aim of achieving enosis. This large-scale violence and ensuing gross human rights violations necessitated the Security Council deploying the United Nations Peacekeeping Force in Cyprus in 1964 in order to stop the bloodshed and the atrocities perpetrated against the Turkish Cypriot people. Notwithstanding the plethora of United Nations documents attesting to these crimes against humanity, the fact that there is no single reference to it in the said letter is a testament to the fact it is not fact-based, but another episode of the well-known Greek Cypriot propaganda machinery.

Regarding the comments made by the Greek Cypriot representative about the maritime jurisdiction areas and natural resources around the island of Cyprus, it should be noted that the Greek Cypriot unilateral and provocative policies vis-à-vis the matter are based on the false pretence that the Greek Cypriot administration of Southern Cyprus has the legal or moral right to represent or act on behalf of the entire island. This extends to the unlawful acts by the Greek Cypriot administration, such as signing bilateral agreements on the delimitation of maritime borders, opening tenders and licensing energy companies to conduct exploration and exploitation activities. As is known, the Turkish Cypriot side has made written representations to the United Nations and put unequivocally on record that these unilateral actions of the Greek Cypriot side, undertaken without the consent and joint decision of the Turkish Cypriot side, are totally unacceptable and not binding in any way on the Turkish Cypriot people.

In the light of the Greek Cypriot side's insistence on continuing with its unilateral actions, the Turkish Cypriot side has been obliged to take steps to protect its own rights and interests regarding the hydrocarbon resources around the island. In this regard, on 21 September 2011, the Turkish Cypriot side signed a continental shelf delimitation agreement with Türkiye, and on 22 September 2011, the Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus (TRNC) Council of Ministers adopted a decision identifying offshore concession blocks, as well as licensing the Turkish Petroleum Corporation (TPAO) to carry out exploration activities for oil and natural gas on behalf of the Turkish Cypriot side. This, however, does not exclude the possibility of the TRNC issuing future licenses to TPAO to conduct drilling in other areas around the island, over which the Turkish Cypriot people have undeniable and inherent rights, irrespective of whether or not the Greek Cypriot side has already issued licenses for these areas.

As can be recalled, in order to address the tension stemming from the equitable sharing of the natural resources around the island, the Turkish Cypriot side made proposals in 2011 and 2012 respectively, which were alas rejected outright by the Greek Cypriot side. On 13 July 2019, the Turkish Cypriot side made an updated comprehensive proposal for cooperation on this issue, to which the Greek Cypriot side is yet to give a positive response. Moreover, and in connection to this, we have clearly stated our full support to the proposal made by the President of Türkiye, Recep Tayyip Erdoğan, to convene an inclusive Eastern Mediterranean conference that would help initiate a constructive dialogue and defuse tensions in the region.

This provocative stance of the Greek Cypriot side regarding hydrocarbons, unfortunately, correlates with the mentality which rejects sharing power and prosperity with the Turkish Cypriot people – the very mentality which has prevented an agreement in Cyprus for over 50 years and which led to the collapse of the Cyprus Conference in 2017, as well as to the overwhelming rejection by the Greek Cypriot side of the most comprehensive settlement plan on Cyprus in 2004, namely, the Annan Plan, as stated in the report of the then-Secretary-General (S/2004/437). Therefore, with regard to the comments made by the Greek Cypriot representative about the Cyprus problem, it should be noted that, after more than 50 years of negotiations on the same framework and outdated parameters, it has become unequivocally clear that insisting on this categorically failed formula only serves to the perpetuation of the unacceptable and unsustainable status quo on the island, where the Greek Cypriot side is treated as if it is the “legitimate government of the whole island” and the Turkish Cypriot side is treated as if it is a mere “community”. This disparity in the treatment of both sides allow the Greek Cypriot administration to continue to enjoy the benefits of its unlawful and unjust status and keep the Turkish Cypriot people under an all-encompassing inhuman isolation. These are the reasons why the Turkish Cypriot side no longer consents to an agreement based on a “bi-zonal, bi-communal federation”. In line with the Secretary-General's remarks that “this time must be different”, we have been sincerely and positively engaged with his Personal Envoy since her appointment to carry out her agreed time-bound mandate, i.e. to explore whether common ground exists or not between the two sides to start a new and formal negotiation process, which can only take place following the reaffirmation of our sovereign equality and equal international status.

Against this background, it is clear that the misleading remarks of the Greek Cypriot representative are not corroborated by legal and historical facts pertaining to the island. Thus, instead of levelling unfounded accusations, the Greek Cypriot side should adopt a sincere approach for the solution of the Cyprus problem on the basis of the current realities of the island, which would, inter alia, respect the inherent rights of the Turkish Cypriot people.

Availing myself of the present opportunity, I would like to also remind the Greek Cypriot administration that its counterpart is, and has always been, the Turkish Cypriot side, not Türkiye.

I would be grateful if the present letter were circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Mehmet **Dânâ**
Representative
Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus
