



Security Council

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Letter dated 14 May 2024 from the Permanent Representative of Cyprus to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council

I wish to refer to a statement made by the Deputy Foreign Minister of Türkiye during the Security Council debate on “Maintenance of international peace and security: the role of young persons in addressing security challenges in the Mediterranean”, which was held on 17 April 2024.

It is truly unfortunate that, once again, Türkiye attempted to hijack a Security Council debate in order to promote its divisive rhetoric on Cyprus. While Türkiye’s statement was a repetition of known positions, it is both revealing of the country’s intentions towards Cyprus and illustrative of its contempt for international legality, the Council and its decisions.

It is at least paradoxical for Türkiye’s Representative to profess support for the just, equitable and peaceful resolution of conflicts when Cyprus continues to suffer the consequences of Türkiye’s military invasion and continued illegal occupation of 36 per cent of its territory. Türkiye’s professed aspiration for the equitable delimitation of maritime areas and the fair sharing of resources is evidently inconsistent with both its claims on over 60 per cent of Cyprus’s exclusive economic zone and its complete disregard for the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea.

Türkiye appears to believe that adherence to Security Council resolutions and international law is optional, a path to be chosen only if this fits Ankara’s discourse. Türkiye’s attempt to justify its aggression towards the Republic of Cyprus and legitimize the establishment of a subordinate secessionist regime by resorting to historical revisionism and misrepresentation of basic facts is a case in point.

At a time when, following the recent appointment of the Secretary-General’s Personal Envoy, efforts are under way for the resumption of a political process that would lead to the solution of the Cyprus problem within the agreed United Nations parameters, Türkiye openly attempts to derail these efforts and continues to reject the United Nations-endorsed framework for a solution. In doing so, it demands the legitimization of its imposed division of the island in pursuit of its vision for a “two-state solution”.

The Republic of Cyprus remains committed to the goal of reunification based on a bizonal, bicomunal federation with political equality, as set out in relevant Security Council resolutions. In this respect, we continue to support the work of the Secretary-General’s Personal Envoy on charting a positive way forward. We call upon Türkiye to engage in the same spirit while paying heed to the aspirations of the people of Cyprus, in particular the youth, whose important and positive contribution to



efforts towards the maintenance and promotion of peace and security has repeatedly been recognized by the Council, in order to revitalize the peace process and the prospect for a comprehensive solution. This would not only benefit all Cypriots but also contribute to the promotion of peace, security and stability in the wider region at a time when it so desperately needs it.

In the face of attacks against the Security Council and its resolutions, it is vital for the international community to stand behind them and ensure that they have meaning, else we risk undermining the very system that we are called upon to defend.

I should be grateful if the present letter could be circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(Signed) Maria **Michail**
