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Question of Cyprus

Proposed programme budget for 2022

Letter dated 11 November 2021 from the Permanent Representative of Turkey to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

I have the honour to transmit herewith a letter dated 11 November 2021 addressed to you by Mr. 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 General Assembly, under agenda items 44 and 138, and of the Security Council.

(Signed) Feridun H. Sinirlioğlu
Permanent Representative



Annex to the letter dated 11 November 2021 from the Permanent Representative of Turkey to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

I am writing in response to the statement made by the Greek Cypriot representative during the meeting of the Fifth Committee of the General Assembly, held on 22 October 2021, under agenda item 138, “Proposed programme budget for 2022: special political missions, good offices and other political initiatives authorized by the General Assembly and/or the Security Council”, to set the record straight on some of the issues raised therein pertaining to your good offices mission in Cyprus.

At the outset, I wish to underline once again that the Turkish Cypriot people are still denied their rightful representation and participation in the international forums, including the relevant organs of the United Nations, effectively preventing Turkish Cypriots, as one of the equal co-owners of the island, from being heard and allowing Greek Cypriot representatives to blatantly distort historical and legal facts about Cyprus in their absence and politicize even technical reports on administrative and budgetary matters taken up in relevant committees.

The said statement represents yet another example of the Greek Cypriot policy aimed at disinforming the international community by portraying the Cyprus problem as one of “occupation”. It is crucial to underline in this regard that none of the Security Council resolutions on Cyprus describe the legitimate and justified Turkish presence on the island, which is in line with the 1960 international Cyprus treaties, as an “occupation”. In fact, the only occupation on the island is the illegal occupation, since 1963, of the seat of the Government by the Greek Cypriot administration, which hijacked the now-defunct 1960 Republic of Cyprus.

With regard to the comments made by the Greek Cypriot representative in relation to the settlement efforts in Cyprus, it is important to point out that, as underlined by the relevant Security Council resolutions, the responsibility for finding a solution lies first and foremost with the two sides in Cyprus. Moreover, in its most recent resolution on Cyprus, the Council highlighted that it was important for the two sides to “freely negotiate a mutually acceptable settlement under United Nations auspices” (resolution [2587 \(2021\)](#)). Needless to say, any attempt to impose a settlement framework on the two sides in Cyprus has neither a legal nor a moral basis and is clearly detrimental to your efforts for a negotiated settlement on the island. As you rightly underscored in your recent report on your good offices mission in Cyprus ([S/2021/5](#)), “this time must be different”.

It was in line with this understanding that the Turkish Cypriot side participated in the informal five-plus-United Nations meeting held in Geneva between 27 and 29 April 2021, where the objective was to determine “whether common ground exists for the parties to negotiate a lasting solution to the Cyprus problem within a foreseeable horizon” (see [S/2021/634](#)), and tabled a new proposal on 28 April 2021. The Turkish Cypriot proposal is aimed at establishing a cooperative relationship between the two States on the island based on their inherent sovereign equality and equal international status. However, the insistence of the Greek Cypriot side on the outdated and repeatedly failed settlement framework inevitably led to the conclusion of the informal meeting without a positive outcome.

The Turkish Cypriot side is of the view that, in line with your closing statement made at the informal five-plus-United Nations meeting, a second informal meeting should be organized without further delay, again with a view to determining whether common ground exists between the two sides. If it is determined in this meeting that there is indeed common ground between the two sides, we should then immediately move on to a result-oriented and time-framed formal negotiating process. Otherwise,

in the eventuality of another failure, we expect you to report this to the Security Council so that the chapter of perpetual unsuccessful negotiating processes can be brought to a close, paving the way for a new chapter aimed at achieving a freely negotiated and mutually acceptable settlement between the two States of the island.

I would be grateful if the present letter were circulated as a document of the General Assembly, under agenda items 44 and 138.

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