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**Letter dated 2 December 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 1 December 2021, 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 General Assembly, under agenda item 44, and of the Security Council.

*(Signed)* Feridun H. Sinirlioğlu  
Permanent Representative



## **Annex to the letter dated 2 December 2021 from the Permanent Representative of Turkey to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General**

Upon instructions from my Government, I am writing in response to the letter dated 29 October 2021 addressed to you by the Greek Cypriot Representative in New York and circulated as a document of the General Assembly and of the Security Council ([A/76/501-S/2021/914](#)) which, yet again, distorts the realities on the ground. In order to set the record straight, I would like to bring the following to your kind attention.

Regarding the claims of so-called “infringements of international air traffic regulations” and “violations of Cyprus’ national airspace”, I wish to underline that flights within the sovereign airspace of the Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus are carried out with the full knowledge and permission of its civil aviation authority, as the only competent body to provide air traffic and aeronautical information services within its own national airspace, and that notices to airmen are issued in accordance with article 3 of the Convention on International Civil Aviation (Chicago Convention). Needless to say, the Greek Cypriot administration of Southern Cyprus has no jurisdiction or right of say whatsoever over the flights within the sovereign airspace of the Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus. Moreover, the unfounded claims contained in the letter regarding the survey vessel “NAUTICAL GEO” have already been comprehensively answered by the Permanent Representative of Turkey to the United Nations ([S/2021/961](#)) and need no further elaboration.

Ercan State Airport in the Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus is in full conformity with all standards recommended by the International Civil Aviation Organization, and necessary upgrades have been performed to keep up with the developing technology. Moreover, the number of air traffic controllers has been increased in accordance with the growing number of flights over the years, and the Ercan area control centre is in regular and close cooperation with the Ankara area control centre in order to ensure the safe conduct of all flights in the region. In 2019 alone, the number of passengers who used Ercan State Airport stood at 4,035,276. Moreover, 27,760 planes used Ercan State Airport for arrival and departure, and 224,898 planes used the Ercan advisory airspace in the same year. In that regard, it must also be stressed that the Turkish Cypriot side is committed to upholding the highest standards in the field of air navigation safety in full conformity with the Chicago Convention of 1944.

Availing myself of the present opportunity, I would like to remind the Greek Cypriot side that its counterpart is, and has always been, the Turkish Cypriot side, not Turkey. The Greek Cypriot side’s baseless allegations contained in the said letter go as far as denying the existence of the Turkish Cypriot people and ignoring the fact that today there exist two independent, self-governing States on the island of Cyprus, each exercising sovereignty and jurisdiction within its respective territory.

The present infringements of international air traffic regulations in the Ercan advisory airspace by the Greek Cypriot administration not only constitute a blatant violation of the sovereignty of the Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus but also endanger the safety of international civil aviation and contravene relevant international rules and regulations. The Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus has made numerous calls to the Greek Cypriot administration to cooperate on the matter in order to avoid any undesired incident and to ensure the safety of air traffic over the island.

Similarly, with regard to the comments of the Greek Cypriot representative pertaining to some specific aspects of the relationship between the Republic of Turkey

and the Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus, it should be noted that, as a sovereign and independent State, the Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus has the right and capacity to engage in diplomatic relations and further these relations with any other State by mutual consent with a view to promoting its people's interests and that such relationship concerns only the States in question and not any other party, including the Greek Cypriot administration.

Moreover, the unjust isolation imposed on the Turkish Cypriot people, which the Greek Cypriot side attempts to reinforce by unilaterally claiming that all airports and seaports in the Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus are "illegal", is in complete violation of international law and is incompatible with the call made by the then Secretary-General, Kofi Annan, in his report to the Security Council dated 28 May 2004 (S/2004/437), wherein he clearly states: "I would hope they [the members of the Security Council] can give a strong lead to all States to cooperate both bilaterally and in international bodies to eliminate unnecessary restrictions and barriers that have the effect of isolating the Turkish Cypriots and impeding their development ...". The continuation of the Turkish Cypriot isolation at the behest of the Greek Cypriot administration is a gross human rights violation that the Greek Cypriot representatives conveniently forget to mention, opting to fabricate allegations of so-called human rights violations by Turkey.

Contrary to the claims of the Greek Cypriot representative, it should be emphasized that none of the Security Council resolutions on Cyprus describe the legitimate and justified Turkish intervention of 1974, undertaken in accordance with article 4 of the 1960 Treaty of Guarantee, as "invasion" or the subsequent presence of Turkish troops on the island as "occupation". Such allegations are nothing but pure Greek Cypriot forgery aimed at distorting the historical facts and realities of the island. In this context, it is important to recall the dramatic statement made before the Security Council on 19 July 1974 by Archbishop Makarios, the Greek Cypriot leader at the time, in which he openly accused Greece, not Turkey, of invading and occupying Cyprus.

As for the false accusations regarding the fenced-off area of Maraş (Varosha) in the said letter, which are merely based on rhetoric, I wish to remind, once again, that the fenced-off area of Maraş is part of the territory of the Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus, where our Government has sole jurisdiction and authority. In this regard, decisions taken are in line with international law and our openings in the fenced-off area of Maraş, which has become the symbol of the status quo on the island, are a positive development that should be supported by the international community. It should be noted that, while taking gradual steps to open the area, the Government of the Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus, on every occasion, has made public that it would fully respect and protect the property rights. As a first step, our Government has set up an inventory committee, tasked with assessing the condition of immovable properties, infrastructure and environmental risks. In October 2020, the Government of the Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus took another decision to open certain public areas, namely, two main streets and the beach, for public visits to visitors of all nationalities. In July 2021, the Council of Ministers of the Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus lifted the military zone status of a pilot area, which corresponds to 3.4 per cent of the fenced-off area of Maraş, with a view to enabling the Immoveable Property Commission to process applications in this area. It is important to remember that the Commission was established in 2005 in line with the rulings of the European Court of Human Rights and is recognized as an effective domestic remedy for the settlement of the property claims in the form of restitution, compensation and/or exchange.

Moreover, the constructive opening of the Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus, designed in a manner fully respecting and protecting the private property rights in

line with international law, does not contradict the relevant Security Council resolutions. It should also be noted that, when the relevant Council resolutions were adopted at the time, there was no European Court of Human Rights-sanctioned effective domestic mechanism for the property claims in the Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus. We strongly believe that the opening of the fenced-off area of Maraş will not only serve as an effective tool to satisfy the property claims but also be economically beneficial to both Turkish Cypriot and Greek Cypriot peoples.

Regarding the efforts to find a freely negotiated and mutually acceptable settlement in Cyprus, the Greek Cypriot representative is, yet again, attempting to disinform the international community and conceal the fact that more than 50 years of negotiations carried out on a federal settlement framework have decisively failed because of the categorical rejection of the Greek Cypriot side to share power and prosperity with the Turkish Cypriot people. The Greek Cypriot insistence on paying lip service to such a settlement is solely aimed at keeping the Turkish Cypriot side trapped in an endless negotiating process while it continues to reap the benefits of the “unacceptable” and “unsustainable” status quo. The Greek Cypriot side should no longer be allowed to consume the resources as well as the time of the international community to further its own anachronistic political agenda. In view of the foregoing, it is unfortunate that instead of acting in line with your call that “this time must be different”, the Greek Cypriot leadership insists on the said “tried and failed” framework, preventing meaningful discussions on a new and realistic basis that could finally yield a positive outcome. A sustainable and lasting agreement is only possible with the acknowledgement of our inherent rights of sovereign equality and equal international status.

I should be grateful if the present letter could be circulated as a document of the General Assembly, under agenda item 44, and of the Security Council.

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