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**General Assembly  
Seventy-fourth session  
Agenda item 41  
Question of Cyprus****Security Council  
Seventy-fourth year****Letter dated 14 November 2019 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 14 November 2019, addressed to you by İsmet Korukoğlu, 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 41, and of the Security Council.

(Signed) Feridun H. **Sinirlioğlu**  
Permanent Representative



## **Annex to the letter dated 14 November 2019 from the Permanent Representative of Turkey to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General**

Upon instructions from my Government, I have the honour to respond to the statement delivered on 6 November 2019 by the Greek Cypriot representative to the Fourth Committee of the United Nations General Assembly at its seventy-fourth session, under agenda item 52 (Comprehensive review of the whole question of peacekeeping operations in all their aspects) and to bring to your kind attention the views of the Turkish Cypriot side on the issue of peacekeeping operations.

At the outset, allow me to underline, once again, that there is no single authority in Cyprus capable of representing both Turkish Cypriots and Greek Cypriots, or the island as a whole. Thus, such statements made by Greek Cypriots under their purported title as the representatives of the so-called “Republic of Cyprus” are legally null and void as far as the Turkish Cypriot people are concerned.

As you are well aware, one of the governing principles of United Nations peacekeeping operations throughout the world is the requirement that the consent of parties to the dispute be sought, in line with the Brahimi report, in which it is clearly stated “... that consent of the local parties [and] impartiality ... should remain the bedrock principles of peacekeeping”. Thus, the United Nations Peacekeeping Force in Cyprus (UNFICYP) can operate on both sides of the island only on the basis of the consent of both parties. Otherwise, UNFICYP “risks becoming a party to the conflict”, as stated in the *United Nations Peacekeeping Operations: Principles and Guidelines*. Indeed, this principle of consent is also fundamental to the Secretary-General’s good offices mission, which treats the Turkish Cypriot and Greek Cypriot sides on the island on an equal footing. Unfortunately, this principle has long been overlooked as regards UNFICYP, as the United Nations persistently refrains from obtaining the consent of the Turkish Cypriot side.

It is also important that each mission, particularly if it was established decades ago, be periodically reviewed to ensure that its mandate and operational principles are in line with the ever-changing realities on the ground. Otherwise, it is inevitable for that mission to face serious challenges in carrying out its responsibilities in an effective manner. As is known, the Turkish Cypriot side has conveyed to the United Nations on numerous occasions that, 55 years after its deployment to the island, a review of the UNFICYP mandate in addition to its functions and operations, in the light of the changing circumstances on the island, is necessary.

Furthermore, it is imperative that each peacekeeping operation be designed in such a way that it supports peacebuilding efforts and encourages changing the status quo. It is not inconceivable that this may not always be the case and that the United Nations presence can be exploited to perpetuate the status quo instead. Thus, the conflicting parties should not be given the message that the continued existence of a peacekeeping force can be taken for granted regardless of the developments in the political process. The efforts of the United Nations to help bring peace and stability to a region through peacekeeping and peacebuilding operations should not provide “a comfort zone” for one of the sides, ensuring the continuation of the problem.

A peacekeeping force should also be fair and even-handed in its dealings with each relevant party. This is a prerequisite to earn their trust and to establish good working relationships. Only in this way can it instil confidence that impartiality, as a core value, is strongly embedded at the centre of its activities.

As the Turkish Cypriot side, we are of the view that the above-mentioned principles should be at the heart of every peacekeeping operation, including

UNFICYP. In this regard, we expect that a thorough review of its operations as well as mandate will be conducted at the earliest opportunity, taking the foregoing into due consideration.

I should be grateful if the present letter could be circulated as a document of the General Assembly, under agenda item 41, and of the Security Council.

(Signed) İsmet **Korukoğlu**  
Representative  
Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus

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