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Agenda item 2

Annual report of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights and reports of the Office of the High Commissioner and the Secretary-General

Note verbale dated 15 July 2020 from the Permanent Mission of Cyprus to the United Nations Office at Geneva addressed to the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights

The Permanent Mission of the Republic of Cyprus to the Office of the United Nations at Geneva and other international organizations in Switzerland presents its compliments to the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights, and has the honour to enclose herewith a letter by the Ambassador and Permanent Representative, H.E. Mr. George Kasoulides, dated 15 July 2020, addressed to the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (see annex).*

* Reproduced as received, in the language of submission only.

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Annex to the note verbale dated 15 July 2020 from the Permanent Mission of Cyprus to the United Nations Office at Geneva addressed to the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights

Letter dated 15 July 2020 from H.E. Mr. George Kasoulides, Ambassador and Permanent Representative of the Republic of Cyprus to the United Nations Office at Geneva addressed to the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights

I am writing in reference to the 18 March 2020 Note Verbale from the Permanent Mission of the Republic of Turkey addressed to the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (A/HRC/43/G/41), requesting the circulation of an attached letter, which were then distributed by the Secretariat of the Human Rights Council on 18 June 2020.

Turkey's practice of circulating letters by individuals purporting to represent Turkey's subordinate local administration in the occupied area of Cyprus makes a mockery out of the distribution of UN Official Documents.

It is regrettable that the secessionist entity in Cyprus has chosen the OHCHR as its latest propaganda vehicle. Beyond the continued insistence on face-to-face meetings, we are also deeply disturbed by the fact that an individual who is accredited as a member of the Permanent Mission of the Republic of Turkey introduces herself as the "Permanent Representative" of an entity not recognised by the United Nations and one that violates international law. I trust that no officer working at OHCHR meets with people purporting to represent Turkey's subordinate local administration in occupied Cyprus.

The provisions of Security Council Resolutions 541 (1983) and 550 (1984) are, I am confident, well known to all international civil servants at OHCHR. Furthermore, it is worth recalling that the mandate of the resolution at hand is clearly laid out in resolution 4 (XXXI), which was adopted by the Commission on Human Rights in the aftermath of the 1974 Turkish invasion of Cyprus. In this, and subsequent resolutions, the Commission called for the full restoration of all human rights to the people of Cyprus, and in particular to the refugees, expressing alarm at "changes in the demographic structure of Cyprus" through the continuing influx of settlers. It called for accounting for missing persons in Cyprus and for the restoration and respect of the human rights of all Cypriots, including freedom of movement and the right to property.

Accordingly, the Government of Cyprus will not concern itself with the substance of the letter, nor is it willing to enter into a blame game, which Turkey and its subordinate local administration seek to provoke.

It would be appreciated if the present letter could be circulated as an official document of the forty-third session of the Human Rights Council.

(Signed) George C. **Kasoulides**

Ambassador and Permanent Representative
