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Question of Cyprus

Proposed programme budget for 2021

Letter dated 24 November 2020 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 24 November 2020, addressed to you by Mehmet Dâna, Representative of the Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus.

I would be grateful if the present letter could be circulated as a document of the General Assembly, under agenda items 44 and 141.

(Signed) Feridun H. Sinirlioğlu
Permanent Representative



Annex to the letter dated 24 November 2020 from the Permanent Representative of Turkey to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

I am writing in response to the statements made by the Greek Cypriot representatives during the 7th meeting of the Fifth Committee of the General Assembly, held on 18 November 2020, under agenda item 141, “Proposed programme budget for 2021: special political missions, good offices and other political initiatives authorized by the General Assembly and/or the Security Council”, as well as at the informal meeting on the same matter, held on 17 November 2020, 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 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.

We are aware of the technical nature of the work of the Fifth Committee. Nevertheless, planning the future work of the Office of good offices mission in Cyprus on a completely wrong assumption that efforts for a mutually acceptable settlement in Cyprus will continue “business as usual” is not only factually misleading, but also jeopardizes the effective discharge by the said Office of its duties. Hence, the negotiations will, once again, be doomed to failure.

As such, the failure in the said proposed budget document to acknowledge the fact that there was a change of leadership in North Cyprus in the aftermath of the presidential elections in October 2020 and the portrayal of a possible new political process as “resumption of full-fledged negotiations” are unacceptable and not in line with the realities on the ground. While proposing the budget for the Office of the Special Adviser and planning its activities to be financed from the proposed resources, the United Nations must not overlook the fact that, following the presidential elections in October, there has been a change in the Turkish Cypriot leadership and that the new mandate given by the Turkish Cypriot people will certainly have an impact on the future parameters of the negotiated settlement process in Cyprus. It must be clear that the new mandate granted by the Turkish Cypriot people is the direct result of the unfaltering resolve of the Greek Cypriot side not to share power and prosperity with the Turkish Cypriot side within a federation, which led to the overwhelming rejection of the comprehensive settlement plan for Cyprus by the Greek Cypriot people at the separate and simultaneous referendums held on both sides of the island in 2004 as well as the collapse of the Cyprus Conference in 2017. After failure upon failure in the past 50-plus years of negotiations, it is high time that the United Nations calls for a five-party meeting to discuss a way forward to get the two peoples of the island and the region out of this vicious and dangerous conundrum.

In the light of more than 50 years of failed negotiations carried out on a specific settlement framework, there is no doubt that insisting on the same straitjacket could only serve the perpetuation and consolidation of the non-settlement of the Cyprus problem and thus the status quo on the island, which all the relevant parties consider to be unacceptable and unsustainable. In this context, it must be remembered that, in resolution [367 \(1975\)](#), the Security Council underlines that the objective of the process of the new mission of good offices in Cyprus is for the two sides “to reach freely a solution providing for a political settlement”. 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 in Cyprus. As you rightly underscored in the latest report on your good offices mission in Cyprus (S/2020/685), “this time must be different”.

“This time can only be different” if we allow the past experiences and failures at the negotiations guide us to achieve future successes. Our expectation from the United Nations as well as the international community at large, therefore, is to respect the free will of the two peoples in Cyprus and their inherent and inalienable right to freely discuss and formulate what kind of a future they envisage for themselves on the island.

I would be grateful if the present letter were circulated as a document of the General Assembly, under agenda items 44 and 141.

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