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**Letter dated 22 June 2022 from the Permanent Representative of
Türkiye to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General**

I have the honour to transmit herewith a letter dated 21 June 2022 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 item 44, and of the Security Council.

(Signed) Feridun H. Sinirlioğlu
Permanent Representative



Annex to the letter dated 22 June 2022 from the Permanent Representative of Türkiye to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

In view of the continued exploitation by the Greek Cypriot side in the absence of the Turkish Cypriot side before international platforms, I feel obliged to write in response to the statement made by the Greek Cypriot representative at the Security Council meeting on 25 May 2022 on your latest report on the protection of civilians in armed conflict ([S/2022/381](#)), during which the legal and historical facts about Cyprus were once again blatantly distorted.

The ongoing war in Ukraine has reminded us once again of the grim reality that it is civilians who bear the brunt of armed conflicts. The Turkish Cypriot people are well aware of the consequences of aggression for civilian populations as they themselves were subjected to an ethnic cleansing campaign (the Akritas Plan) at the hands of Greek/Greek Cypriot armed elements between 1963 and 1974 with the ultimate aim of achieving the annexation of the island to Greece (enosis). In fact, it was this large-scale violence and ensuing gross human rights violations that necessitated the Security Council's deployment of the United Nations Peacekeeping Force in Cyprus in 1964 in order to stop the bloodshed and atrocities perpetrated against the Turkish Cypriot people.

With regard to the comment made by the Greek Cypriot representative about "displacement" of people in relation to Cyprus, he conveniently chooses to ignore the fact that this issue dates back to 1963, when the Turkish Cypriots throughout the island had to flee their homes in fear of their lives in the face of the Greek Cypriot onslaught, which lasted for 11 years. Furthermore, even though many Turkish Cypriots, as well as Greek Cypriots, were displaced in 1974 as a result of the Greek/Greek Cypriot coup d'état and its aftermath, the question of displaced persons was settled through the voluntary exchange of populations agreement reached between the two sides in Cyprus at the third round of talks, held in Vienna in 1975. The agreement was implemented under the supervision of the United Nations Peacekeeping Force in Cyprus and both the agreement as well as its implementation are well recorded in the relevant United Nations documents ([S/11789](#) of 5 August 1975, [S/11789/Add.1](#) of 10 September 1975). With regard to his remarks in relation to the issue of missing persons, I would like to reiterate that it is an issue that affects both Turkish Cypriots and Greek Cypriots alike. As the Turkish Cypriot side, we are doing our utmost on this humanitarian issue by constructively engaging in and contributing to the work of the Committee on Missing Persons so that the Committee can successfully deliver on its mandate. Despite this humanitarian stance of the Turkish Cypriot side, the sole aim of the Greek Cypriot side, alas, is to politicize this humanitarian issue for political propaganda purposes before international platforms, including the United Nations, rather than to engage positively with the Turkish Cypriot side in the work of the Committee.

The Greek Cypriot representative, who attempts to portray the Greek Cypriot side as the champion of individual and collective human rights and fundamental freedoms, conveniently ignores the gravest human rights violation on the island, namely the unjust and inhuman isolation imposed on the Turkish Cypriot people at the instigation of the Greek Cypriot administration. These all-encompassing restrictions range from denying the Turkish Cypriot people the right to representation in the international arena, even in cultural, academic and sports events, to preventing and restricting their travel abroad and their communication with the outside world, and to curtailing trade relations with other countries. I would like to take this opportunity to emphasize that the unjust isolation imposed on the Turkish Cypriot people is the most important element poisoning the relations between the two sides

and their peoples, thus undermining the prospects of a negotiated settlement on the island.

In view of the above, it is clear that the misleading remarks of the Greek Cypriot representative are not corroborated by legal and historical facts pertaining to the island. In a similar vein, we call upon the Greek Cypriot side to discontinue its hostile rhetoric and choose the path of reconciliation and peaceful co-existence with the Turkish Cypriot people by utilizing our new proposal aimed at finding a freely negotiated and mutually acceptable cooperative agreement in Cyprus based on the sovereign equality and equal international status of the two States on the island.

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 **Dâna**
Representative
Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus
