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**Letter dated 2 July 2024 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 1 July 2024, 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 40, and of the Security Council.

(Signed) Ahmet Yıldız
Permanent Representative



Annex to the letter dated 2 July 2024 from the Permanent Representative of Türkiye to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

I am writing in response to the event that took place at United Nations Headquarters on 14 June 2024, which was organized by the Greek Cypriot side to mark ostensibly the sixtieth anniversary of the deployment of the United Nations Peacekeeping Force in Cyprus (UNFICYP) to the island. The said unilateral event, held within the United Nations premises and with United Nations participation, has allowed the Greek Cypriot side to use this anniversary as an excuse to exploit the United Nations platform, once again, for political propaganda purposes and to blatantly distort legal and historical facts regarding Cyprus. Therefore, I am compelled to respond in writing in order to set the record straight.

In order to be able to fully comprehend and analyse the ramifications of the six-decade-old presence of UNFICYP on the island, one should first remember the very reason that necessitated its deployment to Cyprus in the first place. As is known, the Force was sent to the island against the backdrop of a collapsed partnership following the forceful hijacking by the Greek Cypriot side of the Government of the 1960 Republic of Cyprus and the ensuing gross human rights violations perpetrated against the Turkish Cypriot people throughout the island. Its professed aim, therefore, was to help to protect the Turkish Cypriot people from such heinous atrocities and enable them to preserve their equal and undeniable inherent rights on the island. It, however, did just the opposite. Not only did these reprehensible crimes continue unabated, but also the one-sided and biased policies of UNFICYP against the Turkish Cypriot people helped to consolidate the Greek Cypriot usurpation of the partnership Republic. It is, therefore, not surprising that the Greek Cypriot side considers the continued existence of the Force on the island imperative and indispensable in preserving its unlawful title as the Government of the entire island, as it was the deployment of UNFICYP and the policies that it pursued thereafter that played a major role in the creation of this fallacy.

It is regrettable that the Greek Cypriot Foreign Minister was provided by the United Nations with the opportunity to utter baseless claims, including allegations of so-called “invasion and occupation of the island by Türkiye”, notwithstanding the fact that he is, no doubt, well aware that none of the Security Council resolutions on Cyprus refer to Türkiye’s legitimate intervention, which was carried out in line with her rights and obligations under the 1959 Cyprus international treaties, as “invasion” or her subsequent presence on the island as “occupation”. In a manner adding insult to injury, such baseless allegations were made within the United Nations premises and in the presence of a United Nations official, who chose to remain silent.

As for the anniversary in question, the Turkish Cypriot side is of the view that this is not a joyful occasion to celebrate, but a stark reminder that after six decades the Force is still on the island and a political agreement to the Cyprus issue remains as elusive as ever. This begs the question whether UNFICYP can still be considered part of the solution or has become part of the problem. The said event, unfortunately, is not an isolated incident but yet another example of the biased treatment by the United Nations/UNFICYP of the Turkish Cypriot people. In fact, we have been raising our legitimate concerns, alas unsuccessfully, regarding the persistent and systematic biased treatment by UNFICYP of the Turkish Cypriot people for a very long time with the expectation that it can be rectified, paving the way for a more impartial and balanced relationship between UNFICYP and the two equal sides in Cyprus. The dismissal by the United Nations of our legitimate concerns in this regard is deeply troubling and is not what is expected of such an esteemed organization.

In view of the foregoing, it is long overdue for the United Nations to decide whether, unwittingly or not, it will continue to allow itself to be exploited by the Greek Cypriot side as a convenient tool in consolidating the “unacceptable” and “unsustainable” status quo on the island and thus be an accomplice in the basic human rights violations perpetrated against the Turkish Cypriot people or whether after 60 years it would finally reflect on its failed policies in Cyprus and adopt a more impartial and realistic approach in line with the basic tenets of the Charter of the United Nations and its founding principles, such as human rights, human dignity and equality for all.

I would be grateful if the present letter were circulated as a document of the General Assembly, under agenda item 40, and of the Security Council.

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