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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 31 March 2025 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 United Nations Office at Geneva and other international organizations in Switzerland has the honour to provide herewith the comments of the Government of Cyprus in response to the statement made by Türkiye and Azerbaijan during the general debate held under agenda item 2 during the fifty-eighth session of the Human Rights Council (see annex).

The Permanent Mission of Cyprus kindly requests the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights to circulate the present note and the annex thereto* as a document of the Human Rights Council, under agenda item 2.

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



Annex to the note verbale dated 31 March 2025 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

Response by the Government of the Republic of Cyprus to the statements made by Türkiye and Azerbaijan during the item 2 general debate, at HRC58

We strongly reject the unfounded allegations against the Republic of Cyprus. The Turkish claims are nothing more of an attempt to shift focus away from Türkiye's responsibility for the ongoing violations of human rights in the occupied areas of Cyprus.

The annual report of the OHCHR on the question of human rights in Cyprus serves as a stark reminder of the negative impact of the Turkish invasion and continued occupation of the northern part of the island. These actions continue to infringe upon the human rights of all Cypriots.

Claims regarding the alleged treatment of Turkish Cypriots by the government of the Republic of Cyprus prior to Türkiye's invasion are baseless, thoroughly rebutted by the European Court of Human Rights.

The credibility of international law and the UN system is seriously undermined when states like Türkiye violate the UN Charter and then urge the international community to overlook these violations due to the passage of time. We categorically reject all allegations regarding any so-called unilateral right of Türkiye to intervene in and occupy Cyprus. The Turkish invasion of Cyprus in 1974 was a clear violation of international law, the UN Charter and the Treaty of Guarantee. This illegal act has been condemned by Security Council resolutions, including Resolutions 37/253 (1983), 541(1983) and 550 (1984).

The military occupation of northern Cyprus by Türkiye has victimized both communities and is directly responsible for whatever sense of "isolation" Turkish Cypriots may have experienced. We remind the delegation of Türkiye, and the delegation of Azerbaijan which regrettably echoes this narrative, that the authorities of the Republic of Cyprus have issued more than 110,000 passports and identity cards to Turkish Cypriots, fully respecting their rights as citizens of the Republic of Cyprus.

We call on Türkiye to withdraw its troops from Cyprus, abandon its "two states" policy, and commit to a solution on the basis of bizonal bicomunal federation with political equality, in accordance with the relevant UNSC Resolutions.
