

OFFICE OF THE SPECIAL ADVISER TO THE SECRETARY-GENERAL ON CYPRUS



The Secretary-General's Good Offices Mission in Cyprus (OSASG-Cyprus) is a special political mission under the Department of Political and Peacebuilding Affairs (DPPA).

Key developments and trust building initiatives under discussion

1. Establishment of a Technical Committee on Youth
2. Initiatives on the Environment and Climate Change, including the impact on mining areas
3. Restoration of Cemeteries, piloted by the Technical Committee on Cultural Heritage
4. Opening of Four Crossing Points
5. Demining
6. Possible solar plant in the bufferzone

Total Budget

2024: \$ 3,056,500
2025: \$ 2,979,400

OSASG-Cyprus
Staff: 19



52.63% 47.37%

Mandate of the Mission - To support the Secretary-General to use his Good Offices mandate to promote a peaceful solution and an agreed settlement in Cyprus, in accordance with the Charter of the United Nations.



There has been an increase in engagement on the Cyprus issue, with the period between January 2024 and June 2025 the most active period since 2017. 2025 began with the first formal meeting of the two Cypriot leaders since 2020 in Cyprus, with the UN's sustained engagement continuing in February with a visit to the island and consultations with the Guarantor Powers by Under-Secretary-General for Political and Peacebuilding Affairs, Rosemary A. DiCarlo. The Secretary-General convened an informal meeting in a broader format in Geneva on 17-18 March 2025, with the Greek Cypriot leader, Nikos Christodoulides, and the Turkish Cypriot leader, Ersin Tatar, plus representatives of the Guarantor Powers Greece, Türkiye and the United Kingdom. Six trust-building initiatives were agreed in Geneva, as was the re-appointment of the Secretary-General's Personal Envoy on Cyprus, María Ángela Holguín Cuéllar - which took place on 2 May. While the parties currently have different positions vis-à-vis the peace process, SRSG/DSASG Stewart, with the support of the UN Good Offices Mission, engages on the island on issues of mutual interest and importance. There are 13 Technical Committees, with Greek Cypriot and Turkish Cypriot members, designed to improve the everyday lives of ordinary Cypriots. Regular dialogue helps resolve conflict and increase interaction and trust between the two communities.

MISSION OBJECTIVES

- To inform and advise the SG, UN leadership and the Security Council on the peace process.
- To facilitate the peace process in an impartial and professional manner to ensure that the UN remains the trusted custodian of the peace process, including in the absence of a formal process.
- To have a continued engagement with local and international stakeholders for constant and well-coordinated support to the peace process.

SNAPSHOT OF ACTIVITIES - 2024

BRIEFINGS TO THE SECURITY COUNCIL

- 2 briefings.

MEETINGS WITH THE SIDES

- 51 meetings with the leaders and their teams.
- 237 Technical Committee meetings

PARTNERSHIPS

- UNFICYP
- UNCT, including UNDP and UNHCR
- EU and IFIs
- Member states

OUTREACH

- 281 meetings with political parties, academics, CSOs, including women & youth groups, and international organizations.



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TECHNICAL COMMITTEES



Activities and Key Achievements

BROADCASTING & TELECOMMUNICATIONS (2008)



Agreement reached to clear the 694–790 MHz band to facilitate the transition to 5G across the island and to coordinate the distribution of radio frequencies. Regular FM band measurements are conducted.



CRIME & CRIMINAL MATTERS (2008)

Ongoing information exchange to address criminality through the two Joint Contact Rooms located in Nicosia and Pyla/Pile.



CRISIS MANAGEMENT (2008)

Work underway to develop an enhanced crisis coordination mechanism for disaster risk management.



CROSSINGS (2009)

Continued efforts to improve efficiency at the busiest crossing point in Nicosia, which accounts for 80% of traffic between the two sides. Capacity expansion works in both directions expected to begin soon.



CULTURAL HERITAGE (2008)

Conservation and restoration of religious buildings and other shared cultural heritage sites across the island, including cemeteries. Launch of an interactive educational program for youth.



CULTURE (2015)

Organization of “Connecting Arts” bringing together artists from both communities. Development of the “Channels to Culture and Cooperation” website.



ECONOMIC & COMMERCIAL MATTERS (2008)

Efforts to strengthen economic ties, including internship opportunities, inter-community bank transactions, and B2B interactions. Ongoing cooperation to promote intra-island trade and remove obstacles.



EDUCATION (2015)

Development of a pilot program on environmental sustainability, bringing together Greek Cypriot and Turkish Cypriot students through activities at various educational levels.



ENVIRONMENT (2008)

Projects address island-wide environmental and climate change-related challenges including water, waste, air quality, mining, and biodiversity. Current initiatives also focus on geological research, youth engagement, and alternatives to toxic substance.



GENDER EQUALITY (2015)

Advancing implementation of the 2021 Action Plan to ensure women’s full, equal, and meaningful participation in the settlement process. Joint project with the Technical Committee on Environment on “Strengthening Gender Equality in STEM for Climate Resilience.”



HEALTH (2008)

Ongoing facilitation of patient assistance for treatment and medication. Follow-up project proposed on mosquitoes and vector-borne diseases. Veterinary Subcommittee discussions ongoing regarding pets crossing the Green Line.



HUMANITARIAN AFFAIRS (2008)

Areas of cooperation under discussion include disability inclusion, humanitarian impacts of climate change, and intergenerational dialogue to introduce digital skills for elder socialization and independence.



YOUTH (2025)

Initial dialogue and engagement launched around shared concerns, emphasizing co-designed solutions with youth perspectives, including collaboration with other Technical Committees.



In May 2025, the two leaders greeted the newly appointed members of the Technical Committee on Youth at their inaugural meeting.



In 2025, the Technical Committee on Environment launched the Geo-heritage project to bring youth together around the gamification of geo-heritage.



In March 2025, the Technical Committee on Cultural Heritage marked the completion of the conservation work of the Agia Paraskevi church in Famagusta.



In March 2025, the Running for Peace documentary chronicling the historic 2024 coast-to-coast run was screened in Nicosia.

COMPOSITION OF TECHNICAL COMMITTEES

CO-CHAIRS



MEMBERS

