



Security Council

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Mission of good offices in Cyprus

Report of the Secretary-General

I. Introduction

1. The Security Council, in its resolution [2618 \(2022\)](#), requested me to submit a report on my good offices by 5 July 2022, in particular on progress towards reaching a consensus starting point for meaningful results-oriented negotiations leading to a settlement. In the resolution, the Council encouraged the leaders of the Greek Cypriot and Turkish Cypriot communities to provide written updates to my mission of good offices on the actions that they have taken in support of the relevant parts of the resolution since its adoption, in particular with regard to paragraphs 5, 6, 7 and 8, with a view to reaching a sustainable and comprehensive settlement, and requested me to include the contents of those updates in my report. The updates submitted by the two leaders are contained in annexes I and II to the present report.

2. The present report is focused on developments from 16 December 2021 to 14 June 2022. It provides an update on the activities carried out by my mission of good offices under the leadership of my Deputy Special Adviser on Cyprus, Colin Stewart. It also provides an update on my ongoing engagement with the sides and discussions that have taken place on my behalf in relation to my proposal to appoint a United Nations envoy.

II. Background and context

3. While public confidence in the possibility of securing a settlement has remained low since the previous report on my mission of good offices ([S/2021/1109](#)), progress has nonetheless been made between the two sides in several practical areas. In both communities, internal political developments and socioeconomic issues have dominated public debate and media attention.

4. The Turkish Cypriot political landscape has been characterized by uncertainty and increasing polarization. In the Republic of Cyprus, unofficial campaigning has started for the presidential elections scheduled for February 2023.

5. The two sides engaged in a concerted effort to revitalize the work of the technical committees, as called for by the Security Council. In this context, my mission of good offices interacted extensively with the two sides. In the weekly trilateral meetings, the representatives of both leaders and the Deputy Special Adviser on Cyprus agreed to insulate the work of the technical committees from the broader political dynamics over the Cyprus issue, subsequently achieving a number of new bilateral agreements.



6. The new agreements include a preliminary study on bicommunal management of waste electric and electronic equipment, the establishment of a branch of the Joint Contact Room in the bicommunal village of Pyla/Pile to address criminality there, and the development of a website to act as a clearing house for scientists to address environmental challenges island-wide as an environmental peacebuilding initiative between the two communities. Building upon various achievements highlighted in the previous report on my good offices mission, the new agreements injected further momentum into the work of the committees and allowed the implementation and completion of ongoing projects.

7. Of particular importance, in response to a request by the Security Council, the two leaders agreed on a joint “Action Plan on ways to ensure women’s full, equal and meaningful participation in the settlement process/an eventual settlement process” in Cyprus (Action Plan). On 13 April, the two leaders attended the official launch of the Action Plan, hosted in the United Nations Protected Area under the auspices of the Deputy Special Adviser. The decision of the two leaders to attend the launch event in person was seen as an indication of their commitment to implementing the recommendations of the Action Plan, and it was the first time that they had met in person since the reception hosted by the Deputy Special Adviser on 14 December 2021.

8. Long-standing Greek Cypriot Negotiator Andreas Mavroyiannis stepped down from his post effective 15 May and was replaced by Menelaos Menelaou. The weekly trilateral meetings, taking place as part of the ongoing dialogue on the work of 12 technical committees and on issues affecting the daily lives of Cypriots, carried on without interruption.

9. The epidemiological situation due to the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) pandemic continued to fluctuate, with negative impacts on public health across the island. The reporting period saw a steady increase in vaccination rates, and epidemiological indicators improved, with a significant decrease in the pressure on the health systems of both communities. As a result, COVID-19 restrictions were scaled back on both sides of the island, including at its ports of entry. The Technical Committee on Health continued to assess the situation and share epidemiological data on a biweekly basis and enabled north-south cooperation on the pandemic. On the basis of its assessment of 18 April, the Committee consequently decided to remove all COVID-19-related measures at the crossing points from 19 April for the first time since March 2020, a development welcomed by Cypriots on both sides of the island.

10. Despite the gradually improving public health situation, the negative socioeconomic impact of the pandemic continued to deepen during the reporting period, exacerbated by the war in Ukraine, which particularly affected the tourism sector. The most pronounced impact was observed in the north, where it came on top of the devaluation of the Turkish lira and continued severely limited access to trade, with the economy marked by hyperinflation and unemployment.

11. On 20 May, a letter from the Greek Cypriot leader, Nicos Anastasiades, to the Turkish Cypriot leader, Ersin Tatar, was conveyed to the Turkish Cypriots at the weekly trilateral meeting between the representatives of the leaders and the Deputy Special Adviser. The letter outlined the current views of Greek Cypriots on convergences reached in past negotiations and urged the Turkish Cypriot leader to agree to a resumption of substantive negotiations on the same basis. The letter also reiterated, for discussion, a package of confidence-building measures first proposed in its current form in 2020.

12. During the reporting period, certain activities observed on and around the island contributed to deepening mistrust, both between the sides and within each community, as described in the latest report on the United Nations Peacekeeping Force in Cyprus (UNFICYP) ([S/2022/533](#)). At the same time, to address calls from the Security

Council to reduce existing barriers to intercommunal contact and implement confidence-building measures regarding economic cooperation and trade, steps were taken at the crossing points, resulting in a modest improvement, and indications were given on the future easing of restrictions on Green Line trade.

13. The reporting period saw fluctuations in the regional situation. Relations between the guarantor powers, Greece and Türkiye, seemed to be improving, in particular in March, but tensions gradually increased again towards the end of the period.

14. The religious leaders of Cyprus remained united in their commitment to trust-building and reconciliation. They continued to meet within the framework of the Religious Track of the Cyprus Peace Process, under the auspices of the Embassy of Sweden. Despite the overall difficult political climate, the Religious Track remained active in its endeavour to advance religious freedom and other human rights as well as to promote dialogue and peaceful coexistence. In March, the religious leaders started working closely with the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) and faith community leaders in Cyprus to address the dire situation of unaccompanied minors from Africa who are victims of trafficking in persons and exploitation.

15. Representatives of Greek Cypriot and Turkish Cypriot political parties maintained their regular meetings under the auspices of the Embassy of Slovakia. Representatives exchanged views on developments taking place on the island and in the broader region and reconfirmed their commitment to the creation of an atmosphere conducive to the eventual restart of formal negotiations on the Cyprus issue at the level of the leaders. They also stressed the importance of and made suggestions for joint confidence- and trust-building measures, discussed the importance of the work of the technical committees and expressed readiness to engage more with young people on the Cyprus issue.

III. Status of the process

16. Discussions continued regarding the way forward with the leaders of the two communities and their representatives, as well as representatives of Greece, Türkiye and the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland. As part of the discussions, the Assistant-Secretary-General for Europe, Central Asia and the Americas, Miroslav Jenča, visited Cyprus (10–13 April), Greece (3–4 May) and the United Kingdom (5–6 May). A visit to Türkiye and further discussions with the Cypriot leaders are also planned. While all interlocutors expressed support for the continued efforts, the discussions confirmed that their views on the role and mandate of an envoy continue to differ. In this regard, efforts continue to ascertain the modalities that would best support the parties in the search for a way forward.

IV. Status of the process: activities of my mission of good offices

17. My mission of good offices continued to reach out to a broad network of interlocutors, both on the island and in relevant capitals, with the Deputy Special Adviser holding 52 meetings with the two leaders and their representatives, political parties, religious leaders, and civil society organizations and actors. In addition, 27 meetings were held during the reporting period with the European Union, the World Bank and the diplomatic community. The discussions covered a broad range of issues related to the creation of conducive conditions for the peace process, the impacts of the pandemic, the advancement of mutually acceptable confidence-building measures and the promotion of the work of the technical committees. Staff from my mission of good offices also conducted working-level visits to Ankara, Istanbul, Athens and

Brussels for meetings with Greek, Turkish and European Union officials. Finally, the Deputy Special Adviser held high-level meetings with visiting senior officials from a range of Member States.

18. Twelve technical committees formed by the Greek Cypriot and Turkish Cypriot leaders to build confidence and improve the daily lives of Cypriots continued their important bicomunal work. With UNFICYP support, the good offices mission continued to coordinate and facilitate the work of the committees, with a view to ensuring dialogue and cooperation between the two sides. The committees are often seen as models of bicomunal camaraderie and cooperation, and the generation of ideas and projects within the committees helps to build trust and confidence. The political endorsement process has meant that technical-level agreements were sometimes renegotiated before being approved for implementation, resulting in certain delays in the work of the committees. An agreement reached in January between the representatives of the leaders has, however, unblocked disagreements over terminology, allowing for resumed forward progress.

19. Building on understandings reached in the past months, the work of the technical committees saw positive momentum, allowing for the adoption, continued implementation or completion of over 20 initiatives during the reporting period. The Technical Committees on Broadcasting and Telecommunication, Cultural Heritage, Culture, Crime and Criminal Matters, Economic and Commercial Matters, the Environment, Gender Equality and Health have all remained active. At the same time, membership issues, terminology or other negative dynamics affected the activities of the Technical Committees on Crisis Management, Crossings, Education and Humanitarian Affairs.

20. The Technical Committee on Health sustained frequent interaction between the two Co-Chairs and experts, who exchanged epidemiological information and information regarding their respective COVID-19-related measures and vaccinations on a biweekly basis. The Committee continued to synchronize and progressively adjust the respective COVID-19-related measures of the two sides concerning crossing points and, on 24 January, 3 March and 18 April, issued press statements through the United Nations Spokesperson in Cyprus announcing the epidemiological level and restrictive measures to be employed or removed. The Committee continued to be instrumental in overseeing the transfer of the European Union-approved vaccines to the Turkish Cypriot community. Although it discussed ways to ensure equal access to the European Union digital COVID-19 certificate for Turkish Cypriots, access remains an issue.

21. Apart from the continued exchange of information on crime in both communities through the Joint Contact Room, the Technical Committee on Crime and Criminal Matters conducted an induction training programme for new members of the extension office of the Joint Contact Room in Pyla/Pile from 8 to 11 April. This new office, officially opened on 15 April, was designed to enhance information-sharing related to crime and criminal matters in Pyla/Pile that will facilitate coordinated action on crime prevention in the bicomunal town.

22. The Action Plan, developed by the Technical Committee on Gender Equality and adopted by the two leaders, includes practical recommendations to address three key questions: how to ensure women's full, equal and meaningful representation; how to engage with civil society, including women's organizations, in order to solicit their views; and how to include a gender perspective. The launch of the Action Plan on 13 April marked an important initial step to initiate broader civil society engagement to raise awareness of its contents and outline next steps in order to achieve its full implementation.

23. The Technical Committee on Cultural Heritage agreed on a new digital heritage initiative. The project is aimed at utilizing the benefits of digitalization for the protection and promotion of cultural heritage, with a special focus on young people. Following discussions within the steering committee for the support facility to the technical committees, activities are also envisaged within an initiative entitled “Cultural heritage monuments of great importance”.

24. The Technical Committee on the Environment, buoyed by positive dynamics, held regular meetings and provided a model of effective communication between the Co-Chairs. The Committee developed a website to serve as a platform for scientists and activists to work together on environmental protection and to address the harmful effects of the climate crisis. The Committee also continued its joint environmental site visits to assess and propose recommendations for addressing island-wide environmental issues.

25. The Technical Committee on Economic and Commercial Matters held regular meetings and discussed how to advance on its list of priorities. Following the approval of their proposal regarding electronic and electric waste management by the representatives of the leaders, work on a preliminary feasibility study is planned as the next step. The proposal on “Cultural Monuments on the Island – video and drawing competition for children and youth” developed by the Technical Committee on Culture was approved, and steps for its implementation are being worked out.

26. Since the agreement reached between the two sides in November 2021 to introduce the 5G standard on the island and the completion of the subsequent European Union tendering process, the Technical Committee on Broadcasting and Telecommunication has continued its work to ensure the implementation of the agreement on the basis of the road map agreed upon by the two leaders.

27. The Technical Committee on Education did not meet during the reporting period and, apart from the peace education project entitled “Imagine”, no other initiatives were implemented or developed. No progress was made on intensifying efforts to promote peace education across the island or empowering the Committee to implement the recommendations contained in its 2017 joint report, as called for by the Security Council. However, the “Imagine” project was successfully restarted and is being implemented under the auspices of the Committee by the Association for Historical Dialogue and Research and the Home for Cooperation. In the 2021–2022 academic year, the project reached over 1,000 students, with training provided to 120 teachers and 36 students from both communities participating in an educational city walk in Nicosia.

28. The technical committees continued to submit project proposals to the European Union-funded support facility, a mechanism created in 2019 in cooperation with the European Commission, the good offices mission and the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) to assist the committees with building capacity and enhancing the impact and visibility of their work. The steering committee for the facility (consisting of my mission of good offices, UNDP, the European Commission and the Greek Cypriot and Turkish Cypriot coordinators for the technical committees) reviewed and approved several projects, including those involving the Technical Committees on Economic and Commercial Matters, the Environment and Culture.

29. While irregular migration on the island has been extensively discussed between the sides, including through the Deputy Special Adviser’s weekly meetings, divergences remain on how to effectively address this growing phenomenon. The United Nations in Cyprus (including the good offices mission, UNFICYP and UNHCR) continues to engage on this important issue with both sides. More details are set out in the latest report on UNFICYP ([S/2022/533](#)).

30. Given the relevance of civil society actors for the achievement and sustainability of an eventual settlement, my mission of good offices maintained an extensive and active network of contacts with civil society, and the Deputy Special Adviser has accorded them a prominent place in his outreach plans, supporting and encouraging their mobilization, advocacy and participation in wider peacebuilding activities on the island.

31. On 22 March, a joint round table with the World Bank was organized to discuss economic opportunities across the island with the participation of Greek Cypriot and Turkish Cypriot entrepreneurs, economists, businesspeople, women, young people and representatives of the two respective Chambers of Commerce. The discussion was focused on maximizing the potential of intra-island trade, removing impeding factors and implementation of the Green Line Regulation. Innovative solutions to facilitate crossing, including through digitalization, were brought up by several participants as a possible way forward to avoid the current congestion.

32. On 21 March, the Deputy Special Adviser met with the heads of the trade unions from each side of the island to discuss a joint endeavour to facilitate the employment of Turkish Cypriot workers in Greek Cypriot companies. Staff of my good offices mission also participated in a judging panel for an intercommunal social entrepreneurship competition, engaging with students and young people from all communities on the island who were pitching their business ideas related to social entrepreneurship and the Sustainable Development Goals.

33. My mission of good offices continued to work with UNFICYP to support environmental peacebuilding initiatives and activities to highlight and address environmental challenges in the buffer zone, throughout the island and regionally. Mission staff also continued to provide regular briefings to students and young people about the mandate and activities of the good offices mission.

V. Observations

34. In the past six months, internal political and economic developments, continuing effects of the COVID-19 pandemic and regional tensions have been the focus in both communities. This focus has also reflected the current lack of space for finding common ground for resuming negotiations, with the positions of the two sides remaining far apart.

35. Despite the continued absence of full-fledged negotiations, and limited engagement on substantive issues in the peace talks, the two leaders and their representatives have continued to meet and engage with the Deputy Special Adviser, and practical measures have been taken to address issues of mutual concern. My mission of good offices has also continued to help facilitate dialogue at various levels and promote contact and rapprochement between the communities, engaging in preventive diplomacy in an effort to mitigate a worsening of the relationships between the sides and the overall political climate. The reporting period has seen serious efforts by both sides to protect the technical committees from political obstructions in their work. I call upon the two sides to continue these efforts to enable the committees to function more effectively and address matters with island-wide implications.

36. The technical committees continue to do important work, albeit with varying degrees of effectiveness. Many have made progress on the basis of the effective use of personal engagement, political empowerment and available expertise. Significant strides were made by the Technical Committees on Broadcasting and Telecommunication, Cultural Heritage, Crime and Criminal Matters, the Environment, Economic and Commercial Matters, Gender Equality and Health. At the same time, there have been challenges to the effective functioning of the Technical

Committees on Crossings, Culture, Education, Crisis Management and Humanitarian Affairs. I call upon the two leaders to ensure that timely appointments are made whenever needed to staff the committees and that the committees are empowered to develop proposals and implement projects to further enhance intercommunal contacts and improve the daily lives of all Cypriots.

37. I commend the launch of the Action Plan and call upon the two leaders to support the Technical Committee on Gender Equality to further engage with diverse stakeholders to bring awareness of the Action Plan to the public and to formulate the next steps for its implementation. Amid a continued lack of substantive negotiations, the presence of the leaders at the launch event for the Action Plan in Nicosia was notable. Looking forward, I am pleased that the leaders have committed to ensuring the inclusion of at least 30 per cent women in their future delegations, as agreed, and I urge them to do the same with other bodies, such as the technical committees, and ensure the inclusion of a gender perspective in any future negotiation process.

38. I encourage the utilization of the technical committees to promote rapprochement and peacebuilding among the young people on the island. I welcome the successful implementation of the “Imagine” peace education programme for the current academic year but note with concern the lack of progress on other projects under the auspices of the Technical Committee on Education. No progress was made on the request of the Security Council to address impediments to peace by conducting a joint review of school materials, including textbooks, and I call upon the sides to support this important work, which could contribute to trust-building between the communities. In addition, the idea of cooperation on sports to bring young people together and promote interaction between the two communities by means of sports activities, including through the establishment of a technical committee on the matter, continues to be worth considering.

39. In view of the drastic effects of climate change and the increasing frequency of wildfires and floods on the island, the technical committees remain underutilized. I encourage cooperation between the two sides on these important issues, including through the committees working on the environment and crisis management.

40. I welcome the efforts of the Technical Committee on Crime and Criminal Matters to complete an extension of its Joint Contact Room to Pyla/Pile. I also encourage the two leaders and their representatives to find mutually acceptable modalities to address the challenges related to irregular migration.

41. I encourage the two leaders and their representatives to engage in a constructive dialogue and urge them to agree to and implement mutually acceptable confidence-building measures that can contribute to a more conducive environment for settlement. The United Nations stands ready to facilitate such a dialogue.

42. I once again echo the support of the Security Council for greater engagement with civil society and urge the two leaders to encourage contact and cooperation more explicitly between the two communities. In addition, I call upon the leaders to aim for more inclusive cooperation and links between the two communities and ultimately in the peace process and, in accordance with recent international best practice, to involve underrepresented groups, including women, minorities, young people and persons with disabilities, in discussions related to a shared future on the island and to incorporate their views accordingly.

43. Interest-driven island-wide initiatives, such as the initiative involving the trade unions and those on the protection of the environment, are commendable. Through joint efforts to address common challenges, they not only build economic and other ties between the communities but also strengthen the case for a comprehensive settlement in Cyprus by demonstrating the benefits of working together. The Deputy Special Adviser has been advocating more initiatives to increase economic cooperation,

considering the distrust exacerbated by economic difficulties faced by the Turkish Cypriot community, and I strongly encourage the two leaders to consider such initiatives. Both my good offices mission and UNFICYP have been and will continue to be committed to providing support by bringing Cypriots together to work on shared issues of importance on the island, such as entrepreneurship and environmental peacebuilding.

44. I reiterate my concern over developments in the fenced-off area of Varosha. The position of the United Nations on Varosha remains unchanged. I recall the decisions of the Security Council on the matter, notably resolutions 550 (1984) and 789 (1992), and I underscore the importance of adhering fully to those resolutions.

45. I remain concerned about the tensions in and around Cyprus and the broader eastern Mediterranean region. I urge all relevant parties to avoid unilateral actions that could heighten tensions, and I reiterate my call for serious efforts to be made to defuse tensions. I also reiterate that natural resources in and around the island should benefit both communities and constitute a strong incentive for the parties to urgently seek mutually acceptable and durable solutions to disagreements related to natural resources and ongoing or planned energy cooperation projects in the region, for the benefit of all relevant stakeholders.

46. In the continued absence of substantive dialogue on the Cyprus issue between the two sides and given the prevailing socioeconomic and political climate, the prospects of reaching common ground on the Cyprus peace process remain uncertain for the time being. As the views on the role and mandate of a United Nations envoy continue to differ, no agreement has yet been found regarding the modalities for the appointment of such an envoy, who could explore ways to reach common ground towards resuming negotiations for a lasting settlement in Cyprus. Our engagement with the sides and the guarantor powers continues in this regard. It should be recalled that the future of the process remains in the hands of the parties. As we continue to support them in seeking common ground, their display of political will and flexibility remain of paramount importance. In this respect, a United Nations envoy to lead engagement with the parties could provide critical support.

47. While underscoring the importance of the work of the technical committees and the positive impact of confidence-building measures for trust-building between the two communities, I believe that only genuine progress towards reaching a consensus starting point for meaningful, results-oriented negotiations leading to a settlement will reassure Cypriots as well as the international community that a peaceful and shared future on the island truly remains possible. I have maintained contact and dialogue with the parties, as have the Deputy Special Adviser and senior management at Headquarters, and we will continue to do so in the coming period. In these efforts, I remain guided by relevant Security Council resolutions that have established United Nations parameters.

48. Once again, I encourage all Cypriots to engage actively in shaping the future of the island and to look forward with pragmatism. Continued efforts are needed to find a mutually acceptable way forward in order to ultimately bring the Cyprus issue to a settlement and bring peace and prosperity to all. In the meantime, I urge the guarantor powers to support dialogue and cooperation between the two communities.

49. I would once again like to thank the partners, in particular the World Bank and the European Commission, that have continued to provide support for the work of both United Nations missions in Cyprus, UNDP and the Committee on Missing Persons in Cyprus and have contributed to the implementation of confidence-building measures.

50. Finally, I would like to thank my Deputy Special Adviser, Colin Stewart, and the personnel serving in my good offices mission in Cyprus for the dedication and commitment that they have brought to their work.

Annex I

Written update by the Greek Cypriot leader to the Good Offices Mission of the Secretary-General, pursuant to and in accordance with UNSCR 2618 (2022)

This submission is made in response to the encouragement in UN Security Council Resolution 2618 (2022), to “*the leaders of the two communities to provide written updates to the Good Offices Mission of the Secretary General on the actions they have taken in support of the relevant parts of this resolution since its adoption, in particular with regard to paragraphs 5, 6 and 7 and 8, with a view to reaching a sustainable and comprehensive settlement*”.

The present update includes all developments relevant to the effort to resume the peace process in the framework of the Good Offices Mission of the UNSG, irrespective of their inter-state or inter-communal character. References to communities are without prejudice to the Republic of Cyprus as a Member State of the United Nations and references to UNFICYP are made without prejudice to the Republic of Cyprus as the host country of the Force.

I. Efforts to resume the peace process

Efforts for the resumption of the Cyprus peace process are – since the unsuccessful conclusion of the Conference on Cyprus in Crans Montana in July 2017 – impeded by the policy of Turkey and of the Turkish Cypriot side to question the agreed basis for a solution of the Cyprus problem as endorsed in the relevant UN Security Council Resolutions, namely a bizonal, bicomunal federation with political equality as defined in the said resolutions. This policy to undermine the resumption of the negotiations has also been manifested through the refusal of the appointment of a UN Envoy to undertake the role of the facilitation of efforts to resume the peace process on the basis of the mandate foreseen in the relevant Security Council Resolutions.

During these challenging times for the international order, when international law, multilateralism and the rules-based international system are being questioned, it is imperative to renew our unequivocal commitment to the principles and values enshrined in the UN Charter and formed the pillars of international peace and stability after the devastating wars experienced by humankind during the last century. There is no alternative than the unwavering adherence to the United Nations as our collective accomplishment, established to save succeeding generations from the scorch of war.

In the framework of the Cyprus peace process, we have since February 2014 reached an agreement on a Joint Declaration of the leaders of the two communities which exemplified and reaffirmed the basis for a solution to the Cyprus problem. The extensive negotiations over the various chapters that followed, culminated into the Crans Montana Conference in 2017, which came closer than ever to a comprehensive strategic agreement.

After the unsuccessful conclusion of the Conference in July 2017, we renewed our efforts for the resumption of the peace process from where it was left-off in Crans Montana, being conscious of the imperative need to preserve the body of work that had been accomplished, in particular the significant convergences on core issues, as described in the UN Secretary General Report of September 2017.

An agreement in principle was reached by the leaders of the two communities in August 2019 for the Terms of Reference for the resumption of the negotiations, which was based on the existing body of work, namely the Joint Declaration of 2014, prior

convergences and the 6-point framework presented by the UN Secretary General in Crans Montana. This understanding was confirmed during the meeting of the leaders of the two communities with the UNSG in Berlin in November 2019, paving the way for an informal 5+UN meeting which took place in Geneva in April 2021. Despite all efforts, we were unable to achieve a breakthrough due to the fundamental shift in the position of the Turkish side, also manifested through an unprecedented policy of interventions, the eventual manipulation of political developments in the occupied part of Cyprus and the imposition of a new leadership of the Turkish Cypriot community, which has since been advocating positions that run contrary to the established UN framework as enshrined in UN resolutions. In the context of the same policy aiming to undermine every prospect for the resumption of the peace process, the Turkish side also rejected the proposal for the appointment of a UN Envoy with a mandate to facilitate the effort for the resumption of negotiations. The proposal was rejected both during the meeting in Geneva in April 2021 and again during the informal meeting of the leaders of the two communities with the UN Secretary General in September 2021 in New York.

At the same time Turkey continued to embark on a series of illegal and provocative activities in the territorial sea, the continental shelf and the EEZ of Cyprus, violations of the military status quo along the Turkish forces ceasefire line as well as in Strovilia, and in the fenced area of Varosha, in full defiance of the relevant UN Security Council Resolutions and decisions. The aforementioned were even more aggravated by Turkey's continuous upgrade of its military capabilities and infrastructure in the occupied part of Cyprus, a policy entailing grave risks for Cyprus but also for peace and stability in the wider region of the Eastern Mediterranean.

These offensive moves by Turkey towards the further militarization of the occupied part of Cyprus were also manifested via decisions for the establishment of a drone base in the illegal military airport of occupied Lefkonoiko, the creation of a naval base in occupied Trikomo and the further expansion of the Turkish military infrastructure in the Karpas peninsula.

Furthermore, Turkey has recently included the Tymbou "airport" to its list of domestic airports, a move which came only days after its decision to impose a new financial protocol upon the Turkish Cypriot community in the context of its policy of suppression and curtailment of the Turkish Cypriots and the integration of the occupied part of Cyprus to Turkey.

Despite this negative background and being fully conscious of the need to put an end to the stalemate and to create conditions conducive to constructive dialogue, we have continued to seek ways and to take initiatives for the reinvigoration of the peace process and the revival of the prospect for a solution to the Cyprus problem.

In this context and bearing in mind concerns expressed by the Turkish Cypriots regarding aspects of the issue of political equality and effective participation, we reaffirmed our commitment to the relevant convergences achieved until the Conference in Crans Montana and we furthermore submitted proposal for the decentralization of the exercise of certain federal competences with a view to enhancing the role of the constituent states, whilst at the same time strengthening the functionality and viability of the Federation.

In the same spirit, we put forward in December 2020 a package of Confidence Building Measures which we have also recently presented directly to the leader of the Turkish Cypriot community, with the earnest hope that they could provide a basis for a constructive discussion and progress towards a breakthrough.

The proposed package comprised the following:

- (a) Varosha – Tymbou airport: The fenced area of Varosha and the access thereto, in conformity with the relevant provisions of the Security Council

Resolutions 550 (1984) and 789 (1992), be transferred to the administration of the United Nations with the view to enabling the early return to the area of its lawful inhabitants under conditions of safety the soonest possible.

In parallel, the Tymbou airport be also placed under the administration of the United Nations and operate in full conformity with the relevant rules of international law, including the 1944 Chicago Convention as well as the 1960 Treaty of Establishment.

In this context it is necessary to reiterate that there is a single and undivided Flight Information Region in Cyprus (Nicosia FIR).

(b) Famagusta Port – Ankara Protocol: Practical arrangements on trade through Famagusta port, in conformity with Protocol No. 10 on Cyprus to the 2003 Act of Accession to the EU, would be agreed. Such trade would be administered by the European Commission.

Turkey would lift its restrictions towards Cyprus and would implement fully and non-discriminatorily the Additional Protocol to the Association Agreement towards Cyprus, thus, permitting, inter alia, access of Cypriot-flagged vessels in Turkish ports and the opening of its air space.

(c) We reiterated in the strongest possible manner that it is not our intention to usurp, either a drop of hydrocarbons or a single penny from any possible revenues, from what our Turkish Cypriot compatriots rightfully are entitled.

That is why we recalled our proposal that when and if the exploitation of hydrocarbons commences, even without a solution of the Cyprus problem, to deposit revenues accrued to an escrow account to the benefit of the Turkish Cypriot community, in accordance to the population/citizens proportion of the future constituent states.

Of course such an arrangement could only be in place if an Exclusive Economic Zone/continental shelf delimitation agreement between Cyprus and Turkey is reached, taking also into account that the current claims by Turkey deprive, not only from the Greek Cypriots but the Turkish Cypriots as well, a large portion of the Exclusive Economic Zone of the island.

Unfortunately, the negative reaction of the leader of the Turkish Cypriot community, in stark contrast to calls from within the Turkish Cypriot Community for a constructive response, was combined with further provocative action on part of the coastal front of the fenced area of Varosha by the Turkish occupying forces, in blatant disregard of the repeated calls by the UN Security Council to cease violations and reverse unilateral actions.

Despite these efforts to escalate tension, only days after we presented our CBMs proposal, we maintain our firm commitment to continue to work towards a breakthrough and we reiterate our agreement with the position expressed by the UN Secretary General in his letter of October 26 2020, that the resumption of the talks should build on the existing body of work and that the best way forward is by returning to negotiations and forging a lasting settlement in accordance with United Nations parameters, as established in relevant Security Council Resolutions and from the point they were suspended in Crans Montana.

We earnestly hope that all involved will engage in a spirit of good will, seeking to address the legitimate sensitivities and concerns of both communities and to achieve win-win situations and a new era of friendship between Cyprus and Turkey as well as Greece and Turkey with positive consequences on EU – Turkey relations and the overall security and stability in the Eastern Mediterranean.

II. Effective mechanism for direct military contacts

Given the need to defuse tension on and around Cyprus, the necessity for the establishment of a mechanism for direct military contacts, between the opposing forces in Cyprus, facilitated by UNFICYP, becomes urgent.

Even more so, taking into account the continuous violations of the relevant UN Security Council Resolutions, in Varosha, the obstructions and interference on behalf of the Turkish occupation forces to the ability of UNFICYP to perform its duties, and the continuous upgrading of Turkey's military infrastructure in the occupied part of Cyprus.

In this direction, the government of the Republic of Cyprus presented a proposal already in December 2019, outlining a framework for a mechanism for direct military contact between the opposing forces, namely the National Guard and the Turkish occupation forces, at the level of their Commanders, facilitated by UNFICYP at respective level, in accordance with its mandate, as prescribed by the UN Security Council Resolution [186 \(1964\)](#).

With a view to further facilitating the effort for the establishment of the military mechanism the government of Cyprus has submitted a proposal for the appointment by the respective Commanders of the opposing forces of focal points that will comprise the mechanism along with a representative of UNFICYP at the respective level.

III. Committee on Missing Persons

The work of the Committee on Missing Persons in Cyprus remains a fundamental aspect of the peace process and therefore, the support of all parties is indeed considered *a conditio sine qua non*.

In this regard, we would like to stress once more the importance of access to information from relevant archives of countries and organizations that had a military or police presence in Cyprus in 1963, 1964 and 1974, thus rendering the Committee more effective.

In particular, the Turkish military archives, especially of the period around 1974. Turkey has the obligation to exercise due diligence and provide information from its archives in good faith, to help determine the fate of missing persons in Cyprus.

Access to military archives would *inter alia* provide information regarding primary locations of burial of missing persons, as well as secondary locations given that a great number of remains were relocated, rendering the efforts of the Committee extremely difficult.

As pointed out numerous times in the past, it is indeed critical to grant access to archives and obtain pertinent information to the question of the fate of missing persons, which constitutes one of the grave humanitarian challenges of the conflict.

IV. Technical Committees

The Technical Committees continue their work, aiming to alleviate the daily life of people from the adverse effects of the *status quo*, within the framework of their terms of reference as agreed between the leaders of the two communities since 8 July 2006, under the UN auspices. Within this framework, their work constitutes an integral part of the efforts for a solution to the Cyprus problem on the agreed basis as defined in relevant UN Security Council Resolutions. Their work also contributes to

the efforts to improve the public atmosphere and to create conditions conducive to the resumption of the negotiations process.

In our efforts to restore and enhance intercommunal contact, in the post COVID-19 period, we pursued, as a priority, the return to the pre-pandemic operational status of the crossing points. To this end, the Technical Committee on Health facilitated the synchronization of efforts, which culminated into the lifting of all COVID-related restrictions in May. Our efforts continue to further facilitate crossings of people and interaction between the two communities, with the emphasis put on ideas that will speed – up relevant checks at the crossing points.

In the framework of the Imagine programme on anti-racism and peace education, which aims to increase contact and collaboration between the two communities, activities have resumed after 2 years of COVID-related restrictions. The number of participants is encouraging, bearing in mind that despite the difficult circumstances more than 1000 students and more than 100 educators participated in the programme activities since last September, creating high expectations for the next academic year.

Contributing in the contacts, the understanding, the respect and the trust building between the two communities through joint work on the restoration of cultural monuments and sites, the Technical Committee on Cultural Heritage has maintained a steady output with 5 projects already concluded in 2022 and almost 20 more projects under way. Their work has inspired other Technical Committees as well, including the choice of theme for their projects.

In further encouraging civil society engagement towards peace efforts, the Technical Committee on Gender Equality organized in April a launch event for the presentation of the *Action Plan* agreed, in response to the UN Security Council call to the leaders of the two communities for a concrete commitment to increase women’s full, equal and meaningful participation in peace talks and to provide direct support and encouragement to civil society organisations to enhance inter-communal contact and trust-building. The Technical Committee is currently planning its next steps in engaging with relevant stakeholders for the implementation of the practical recommendations included in the Action Plan.

At the same time, the Technical Committee on Economy continues the discussion on ways to further advance Green Line Trade, by expanding the range of traded products, as well as the respective financial transactions mechanisms. Taking into account the need to advance economic interaction it should be noted that much work remains to be done to ensure that trade works in both directions, bearing in mind in particular, existing obstacles in the “reverse trade”.

The Technical Committee on Economy has also worked on ways to enhance economic cooperation between the two communities and while a number of issues are still under deliberation, agreement has been reached on a feasibility study on Waste Electrical and Electronic Equipment recycling involving both communities, funded by the EU through the Facility mechanism.

On the other hand, the Technical Committee on Crime and Criminal Matters has maintained a well-functioning channel for exchange of information regarding criminal activity through the Joint Contact Room. Since April 2022, a sub-facility of the JCR has been launched in Pyla in an effort to focus on the particular challenges of the area.

In parallel, we have suggested the involvement of the Technical Committee in the discussion of aspects of the issue of Irregular Migration, in line with the mandate assigned by the leaders of the two communities to the Technical Committees. Such a discussion can be supported by other Technical Committees, e.g. the Technical

Committee on Humanitarian Affairs, Crisis Management and Gender Equality, as well as experts on specific aspects.

Technical Committees have been encouraged to use available tools and resources to deliver concrete results, within the framework of their mandate. To this end, they have gravely benefited in particular by the Support Facility funded by the EU in the framework of the Regulation 389/2006.

Through the Facility, a number of projects are currently under implementation:

- the second phase of the programme on the identification and distribution of mosquito vectors to address the risk for disease transmission, proposed by the Technical Committee on Health,
- the Prevalence, Correlates and Prevention of conventional bullying in schools and cyberbullying project by the Technical Committee on Education in synergy with the Technical Committee on Crime,
- the Technical Committee on Environment online platform to create an island-wide network of communication and collaboration among environmental stakeholders from both communities on issues of common interest, including in particular those that affect the unique ecosystem of Cyprus,
- the aforementioned feasibility study on Waste Electrical and Electronic Equipment recycling proposed by the Technical Committee on Economy,
- the Video and Drawing Competition inspired by the cultural heritage sites of the island, a project with 2 parts which was proposed by the Technical Committee on Culture and builds on the work and achievements of the Technical Committee on Cultural Heritage.

While these projects have been agreed and are under way, albeit in some cases with considerable delay, more projects are in the pipeline that still need to be agreed and concluded in line with the timeframe of the last extension of the implementation period of projects under the Facility. These include inter alia two projects proposed by the Technical Committee on Environment, namely the Protection and preservation of Carob trees, as well as the exploration of the Geological Heritage of Cyprus, as well as an internship exchange for young veterinarians proposed by the sub-Committee on Veterinary Matters.

Of particular importance in this respect is the project proposed by the Technical Committee on Education on Lessons Plans, comprising 30 modules of supplementary educational material to be made available to students and educators for voluntary use. It was envisaged as a pilot project in response to the call of the UN Security Council in its Resolutions to promote peace education in Cyprus. Although the experts have concluded their work last September, the project still remains under review by the Turkish Cypriot side.

The Technical Committees have a considerable role as contributors to a more positive political environment, in the framework of their mandate and in this context we renew our commitment in further supporting them in their quest to deliver their task, which forms integral part of the peace process and of the overall effort to achieve a solution and the reunification of Cyprus on the agreed basis.

Annex II

Actions taken by the Turkish Cypriot Side in support of the relevant parts of Security Council Resolution [S/RES/2618 \(2022\)](#) adopted on 27 January 2022

I. Actions taken in Support of Reaching a Sustainable and Comprehensive Settlement

Our General Outlook:

As the fifth President of the Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus (TRNC), and the Leader of the Turkish Cypriot People, I have been closely observing, with deep concern, the unprecedented crises in the heart of Europe and in the Eastern Mediterranean. My assessment of the alarming situation is that there is an urgent need that calls for reflection, solidary and far-sighted action.

The worldwide struggle against the COVID-19 pandemic and its repercussions, as well as the geopolitical crisis in our region, as exemplified by the war in Ukraine, signify global challenges that should serve as wake-up calls to the humankind. The former has resulted in over 5 million deaths, the collapse of health services in many parts of the world and global economic decline, while the latter led to an unprecedented and ongoing humanitarian crisis in Ukraine, which we never thought we would face at this day and age.

I strongly believe it is high time for the two inherent equal Sides in Cyprus, together with the rest of the world, to react urgently to these wake-up calls in a responsible manner and to cooperate in ways that would serve the well-being of our island and peace and stability in our region.

I have received the mandate to resolve the 59-year-old Cyprus issue from my People, once and for all. This must be the shared objective of my counterpart, Mr Nicos Anastasiades, the Greek Cypriot leader. This ultimate goal can only be achieved through a constructive and win-win outlook that would pave the way for starting result-oriented formal negotiations, to be based on the inherent equality of the two sides, which would culminate in a fair, just and sustainable settlement in Cyprus.

Experience has proven to us in well over half a century of negotiations that insisting on the same failed basis to solve the Cyprus issue will only serve the perpetuation of the problem and thereby the continuation of the unacceptable and unsustainable status quo. This is why the Turkish Cypriot Side has withdrawn its consent for bi-zonal, bi-communal federation (BBF) as the basis for the solution of the Cyprus problem. This failed basis, which has been exhausted, is no longer on the table.

In order to break the vicious circle, I shared my vision for a settlement in Cyprus with my counterpart, Mr Anastasiades, along with the Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Türkiye, Mr. Çavuşoğlu, the Minister of Foreign Affairs of Greece, Mr. Dendias and the British Foreign Secretary, Mr. Raab at the informal 5+UN meeting on Cyprus, held in Geneva in April 2021 under the auspices of the UN Secretary General (UNSG).

During the Geneva informal meeting, I made it clear that the rules of the game had to be changed, drawing lessons from the failed processes. I also reiterated my conviction that the exhausted basis of bi-zonal, bi-communal federation, was no longer on the table. I shared my new vision in written form and proposed a realistic basis that would pave the way for a new formal negotiation process.

I would like to reiterate the rationale behind the Turkish Cypriot proposal which has become even more essential, given developments since the 2017 Crans-Montana summit.

Experience has shown us that negotiations in Cyprus fail when the inherent equality of the Turkish Cypriot side is pushed aside and recognized only at the negotiation table, always leaving the door wide open for the Greek Cypriot Side to walk away at a whim as the recognized administration, knowing too well that this will leave the Turkish Cypriot side in the cold, without any status and under inhuman isolation and restrictions. Negotiations that have continued for over half a century on this asymmetric basis have shown us that result-oriented negotiations should be conducted between equals, not only in word. Entering into result-oriented, time-framed negotiations, only after establishing the equilibrium between the two Sides is of crucial importance. Our proposal is to level the playing field both at the negotiation table and outside, through a confirmation of the inherent sovereign equality and equal international status of the two Sides. It is time to acknowledge this fact, through the adoption of a new negotiating basis with the assistance of the UNSG.

I would like to take this opportunity to reiterate once again that the Turkish Cypriot Side is ready to proceed with formal negotiations to establish a structured cooperative relationship with the Greek Cypriot Side, following the acknowledgement of the inherent sovereign equality and equal international status of the two Sides.

In this regard, we support the UN Secretary-General's proposal to appoint a Personal Envoy to explore whether there exists a common ground in order to start a formal negotiating process between the two Sides. To this end, I continue to support the UN Secretary-General's proposal to appoint a Personal Envoy for a defined time-frame that could be renewed upon the consent of the two Parties, and with the specific mandate to assist the Sides in their efforts to explore whether there exists a common ground.

Despite the fact that there has never been Greek sovereignty over the island of Cyprus, Greek and Greek Cypriot political leaders maintain that Cyprus is a Hellenic island. On 28th March 2021, on the occasion of the 200th anniversary of the Greek uprising, Greek Cypriot Leader Nicos Anastasiades had stated that "Cyprus has always been an integral part of Hellenism". This hegemonic Greek and Greek Cypriot vision is not compatible with the so called objective of federal partnership in Cyprus. It is also not in line with the factual realities and the stability needs of the island and of the region. Efforts to realize this vision have resulted in decades of violence between the two co-owner Peoples of Cyprus, resulting in the usurpation of the 1960 partnership Republic of Cyprus by the Greek Cypriot partner in December 1963. Since then the imposed power asymmetry between the two Sides in favour of the Greek Cypriot Side make the so called bi-communal, bi-zonal federal settlement model neither feasible, nor sustainable, as we have seen over 45 years of failed federal partnership negotiations.

As equals, Turkish Cypriots possess inherent sovereign equality and are entitled to enjoy the same international status as Greek Cypriots.

This is why the Turkish Cypriot Side has adopted the position that from this point on meaningful formal negotiations can only start on the acknowledgement of the sovereign equality and equal international status of the two sides.

Obstructionist Policies

Decade after decade, leaders from both Sides have acknowledged the importance of creating confidence between the Turkish Cypriot People and the Greek Cypriot People. The main reason for the continuing lack of confidence has been, regrettably, the obstructionist policies of the Greek Cypriot leadership.

If the Greek Cypriot Side is genuinely committed to building confidence between the two Sides, as it is propagating, it must first prove its sincerity by putting an end to its obstructionist policies against the Turkish Cypriot People, particularly our youth and children, in all areas.

The Greek Cypriot administration continues tirelessly to obstruct the representation and participation of the Turkish Cypriot People in international fora, *inter alia* in cultural, social, sporting organizations and activities.

For example, as we are trying to improve trade through the Green Line Regulation, the long-standing obstacles continue to persist due to Greek Cypriot authorities' resistance. Despite repeated calls also from Your Excellency and the UN Security Council, the Greek Cypriot Side does not permit the crossing of Turkish Cypriot commercial vehicles and the trade of processed food, contrary to the express provisions in the EU legal framework on the Green Line Regulation that oblige them to do so, as also confirmed by the European Commission. On the latter, a limited list of processed food items were said to have been permitted to be traded, with no implementation to date, under the pretext of bureaucratic resistance. Moreover, Turkish Cypriot businesses cannot advertise their products in Greek Cypriot media outlets.

On the issue of Hellim, I cannot report any positive developments either. The Turkish Cypriot producers have not been able to use the Hellim/Halloumi PDO for this shared cultural product, because of the unrealistic and unsurmountable formalities imposed on Turkish Cypriot producers and also because no appointment has been made for food safety inspections to be conducted so as to enable Hellim produced by Turkish Cypriot producers to be exported to the European Union. On the other hand, despite our repeated calls on the EU, Greek Cypriot producers have been benefiting from the PDO and exporting to the EU since last year.

Even bank transactions between the businesses of the two Sides is not possible due to obstructions by the Greek Cypriot Side. We have been persistently pursuing the issue of bank transactions between the two Sides with European Commission officials, the Greek Cypriot Negotiator and within the Technical Committee on Economy and Commercial Matters for nearly a year, without any result.

In addition to the obstacles on trade, the Greek Cypriot side has been continuing with its policy aimed at hindering the crossing of people through the border between the two Sides. Despite the discussions at the level of the Turkish Cypriot Special Representative and the Greek Cypriot Negotiator, no steps have been taken by the Greek Cypriot Side to ease the congestion, in particular at the Metehan crossing in Lefkoşa, which could simply be resolved by increasing the number of the Greek Cypriot personnel. The assurances given to the UN Special Representative of the Secretary General (UNSRSG) Colin Stewart by the relevant Greek Cypriot authorities that they will take the necessary steps to ease the crossings have not yielded results.

I regret to share disturbing information that my People have conveyed to me regarding a smear campaign conducted by our counterparts against Turkish Cypriot businesses, business people and even medical professionals. This campaign aimed at disrupting economic activity, including services, is not only to the detriment of the economy of the Turkish Cypriot Side, but also runs counter to the calls of the UNSC regarding reducing barriers to people-to-people contacts.

As part of the inhuman isolation imposed on the Turkish Cypriot People, our limited access to other markets through our ports is also being persistently curtailed by the Greek Cypriot administration. It is a known fact that according to international law Gazimağusa (Famagusta) Port is open to international maritime shipping, as it has also been confirmed in writing by the European Commissioners and the Commission's Legal Service. The Greek Cypriot leadership has been continuing and even worsening its

hostile act against those who choose to access the Gazimağusa Port, through detention and arrest of the captains and the crew, the administration of fines on the companies involved, and threats on flag States and others through different channels.

These practices undermine efforts aimed at eliminating the economic disparity between the two Sides and building trust. If we are genuine in our intentions to work towards improving not only the daily lives of our respective Peoples, through technical committees, but also the well-being of our island and our region, these hostile policies and practices must come to an end.

Education:

On the issue of education, the Turkish Cypriot Side enabled a school to ensure that the Greek Cypriot residents of the Karpaz peninsula receive elementary school and secondary school education in their mother tongue. As part of this good will effort we also enable Greek Cypriot authorities to send textbooks for the use of these students. Sadly, our good will is being exploited by the Greek Cypriot authorities who continue to send textbooks which contain offensive and racist language, and promote hatred and enmity, despite our repeated warnings against the inclusion of such content in the textbooks. Our Ministry of Foreign Affairs has communicated to UNFICYP the details regarding the relevant textbooks and their contents. The Greek Cypriot Side is yet to reciprocate our good will regarding the opening of a special school for Turkish Cypriots residing in the South in respect to their right to education in their mother tongue. The Greek Cypriot Side has also been rejecting, together with the “Church of Cyprus”, to review the content of the textbooks used in their education system, which promote enmity.

Priests Getting Military Training:

Another demonstration of the mentality of the Greek Cypriot Side manifested itself as priests attended shooting exercises, using assault rifles, which was organized by the Greek Cypriot military. Even worse, there was no condemnation of this incident from the Greek Cypriot leadership, political parties or relevant organizations in the South.

The fact that nothing has been done following the confessions of two hit men of the Greek Cypriot terrorist organisation (EOKA), Neoptolemos Leftis and Athos Petridis, who admitted on Omega TV on May 26, 2022, that they executed 68 Turkish Cypriot unarmed, innocent civilians in the 1960s, constitute yet another example of the magnitude of the severity of official Greek Cypriot policy towards the Turkish Cypriot People.

This has not only created fury among the Turkish Cypriots but also added to the trauma of the relatives of the Turkish Cypriot missing persons. It is with great regret that we have observed, once again, that there has been no condemnation made by the Greek Cypriot leadership, nor by any political party or civil society organisation in South Cyprus, following this horrific confession. It is our expectation that legal proceedings be initiated as soon as possible and the perpetrators, together with those who gave them the orders, are brought to justice.

De-mining:

I am a firm supporter of a mine-free island. The de-mining of the Island can set a perfect example for military cooperation. I also believe that this is a legacy that we

owe to our future generations. As you recall, the Turkish Cypriot Side put forward comprehensive proposals to the Greek Cypriot Side in 2014, 2015 and 2018, with the purpose of clearing all remaining minefields on the island, starting with the buffer zone.

Irregular Migration:

Irregular migration is a global phenomenon and neither the Turkish Cypriot Side nor the Greek Cypriot Side is immune to this challenge. As the Turkish Cypriot Side, during the routine meetings between my Special Representative and the Greek Cypriot Negotiator, we have been underlining the importance of cooperation to tackle this humanitarian issue with the participation of officials from the relevant departments of the two sides. Unfortunately, our Greek Cypriot counterparts are yet to respond positively to start cooperating effectively on this important and sensitive issue.

II. Actions Taken in Support of Confidence Building as well as Promoting Contacts and Reconciliation

While continuing to explore whether there exists a common ground in order to start a formal negotiating process, we are ready to pursue novel policies/ideas aimed at reaching win-win outcomes through meaningful cooperation between the two Sides.

The so-called 19th May 2022 CBM proposals of Mr. Anastasiades amount to the ceding of our authority and sovereignty to the UN in Ercan Airport, together with the handing over of our FIR to the Greek Cypriot side, on top of which we are also asked to cede our authority and sovereignty to the UN in the closed part of Maraş (Varosha) and to the European Commission in Gazimağusa Port. These would be tantamount to a transfer of sovereignty to the Greek Cypriot Side.

These so-called CBMs proposed by the Greek Cypriot Side are in fact components of the exhausted bi-zonal, bi-communal federation model. Although Mr. Anastasiades knows too well that these CBMs have been rejected numerous times and thus exhausted, he still thinks that he can build a positive image by repeatedly bringing them to the table.

To genuinely build confidence, it is essential that CBMs respect the inherent equality of the two Sides and do not amount to the extension of one side's authority over the other. I thus urge my counterpart to concentrate on measures that comply with these requirements and adopt genuine proposals that would foster cooperation for the sake of our respective Peoples, as well as for the good of our island and the Eastern Mediterranean. In this connection I would like to point out that we are currently working on proposals that are aimed at enhancing cooperation between the two Sides and that comply with the above requirements.

The work of the Technical Committees is continuing on the basis of the four agreed principles, namely that the proposals must be mutually agreed, mutually beneficial, respecting the equality of the two Sides and not amounting to or implying the extension of one Side's authority or jurisdiction over the other. Conformity with these principles will assist the creation of the needed atmosphere of understanding, trust, cooperation, and peaceful relations between the two Sides, which are most essential for our work. Mr. Colin Stewart, the new Special Representative of the United Nations Secretary-General (SRSG) and Head of UNFICYP, has taken over the facilitation role of the mechanism created with the initiative of the then UN Special

Representative Ms Elizabeth Spehar in February 2021, to address the daily challenges, requests, and proposals introduced by the two Sides to contribute to the daily lives of both Turkish Cypriots and Greek Cypriots. The Turkish Cypriot and Greek Cypriot Technical Committee Coordinators, as well as the Turkish Cypriot Special Representative Mr M. Ergün Olgun and the Greek Cypriot Negotiator Mr Andreas Mavroyiannis, continued to meet with the UN Special Representative on a weekly basis. After the appointment of Mr Menelaos Menelaou to replace Mr Mavroyiannis as the new Greek Cypriot Negotiator, the regular meetings are continuing.

The Technical Committee Coordinators also meet once a week to assess the work of the technical committees and prepare for the meetings to be held between the Special Representative and the Negotiator. The weekly meetings between the Special Representative and the Negotiator have evolved into a forum between the two Sides where problems affecting the daily lives of the Turkish Cypriots and the Greek Cypriots are addressed, and matters of concern are brought to the attention of the other side.

1. Technical Committees

During the reporting period, the Technical Committee on Gender Equality was one of the most active committees. In response to the UN Security Council's call, the committee managed to agree on an Action Plan on how to secure full, equal, and meaningful participation of women in an eventual settlement process in Cyprus. In this context, I met with the Greek Cypriot leader Nicos Anastasiades for the first time this year, to launch this important Action Plan, not only with the participation of the members of the Technical Committee on Gender Equality, but also with the online participation of the relevant women's civil society organizations who wished to take part. The Technical Committee on Gender Equality continues to work on the implementation of this Action Plan.

The Technical Committee on Economy and Commercial Matters continued its talks on numerous subjects during the reporting period. The Technical Committee decided to proceed with the Feasibility Study for Electrical and Electronic Waste Recycling (WEEE). A Turkish Cypriot and a Greek Cypriot specialist were hired for this purpose.

As the Turkish Cypriot Side, we are waiting for the Greek Cypriot Side to proceed with the trade of all processed foods, which they have been delaying to act on for a long time. This is essential for the development of trade between the two Sides.

On the subject of worn-out Euros, even though the Turkish Cypriot Side has provided all the relevant information regarding the replacement of such notes with new ones, it has not been possible to achieve results.

Furthermore, the Technical Committee is still discussing, without result, long-standing practical issues, such as the crossing of Turkish Cypriot commercial vehicles and the related bank transfers issue aimed at enhancing trade between the two Sides.

The Technical Committee on Health continued its activities diligently, just as it did in previous reporting periods. The Technical Committee is continuing to harmonize the decisions taken by the two Sides to combat the COVID-19 pandemic. Progress was made to ease the unfair requirements imposed by the Greek Cypriot Side for Turkish Cypriots when applying for a European Vaccination Certificate. The Technical Committee on Health continues to exchange information on health issues, while keeping track of the worldwide developments on COVID-19 and other public health concerns. Despite the fact that there were delays in the delivery of vaccines from the European Union during this period, we consider the delivery of the COVID-19 vaccines for children during this reporting period to be a significant development.

Furthermore, during this reporting period, the Veterinary Subcommittee resumed its work and developed an internship program to help young veterinarians on both Sides to gain experience.

Finally, the Technical Committee on Health hosted an online training session for specialists on both Sides on the West Nile Virus surveillance and mosquito-borne disease control.

The Technical Committee on Cultural Heritage has continued to work on projects that cover almost all aspects of cultural heritage. Throughout the reporting period, various fortifications, fountains, baths, religious monuments, archaeological sites, and many other heritage sites on both Sides of the island of Cyprus were conserved and support work was carried out. In addition to these, the Technical Committee has also continued to produce surveys for numerous cultural heritage sites. Two significant conservation projects completed by the Technical Committee on Cultural Heritage during this reporting period include Zuhuri Tekke and Panagia Kyra Church. In addition to the completed projects, conservation works have begun on many cultural heritage monuments such as Canbulat (Arsenal) Bastion, Orunda Mosque, Saint Synesios Church, Panagia Trapeza Church, Tuzla Hamam and, Soli and Vuni archaeological sites.

The Technical Committee's responsibilities are not limited to the physical work on the cultural heritage monuments. In addition to its work on monuments, the Technical Committee on Cultural Heritage has agreed to launch a project for digital documentation of monuments completed by the Committee. Under this project, 2 sites will be selected for the creation of 3D point clouds and 20 completed projects of the Technical Committee will be selected for preparing their virtual tours. Bearing in mind that education is the most important factor in ensuring the long-term preservation of cultural heritage, the Technical Committee on Cultural Heritage has also launched the project on Interactive Education Programme on Shared Cultural Heritage for Turkish Cypriot and Greek Cypriot Youth.

The Technical Committee on Environment has completed and launched its new website, which aims to establish a network of communication and collaboration among all environmental stakeholders by creating a platform of cooperation between the two Sides in Cyprus. This technical committee is also working on a number of projects, including carob tree protection, geo-heritage, and competitions in seven core thematic areas on which the Technical Committee on Environment is currently focused. The Technical Committee on Environment is also now discussing the task assigned to them by the Special Representative and the Negotiator on how cooperation between the two Sides can be achieved regarding the UN's 17 Sustainable Development Goals.

For the school year of 2021–2022, the Technical Committee on Education proceeded to implement the Imagine Program in the buffer zone. Additionally, teachers from both Sides received training on global values as part of the Imagine Program. Equal numbers of Turkish Cypriot students and the Greek Cypriot students participated in the educational walk under the Imagine Program. In collaboration with the Technical Committee on Crime and Criminal Matters, the Technical Committee on Education also completed the questionnaire on the prevalence, correlates, and prevention of traditional and cyberbullying in schools. The goal of this project is to look into the prevalence and correlates of traditional and cyber forms of bullying and victimization of Turkish Cypriot and Greek Cypriot teenagers, with the goal of using this information to develop their prevention strategies.

The Technical Committee on Crime and Criminal Matters agreed to open a Joint Contact Room (JCR) to share information about criminal activities and to effectively address issues of mutual concern in Pile village. For a long time, criminal activities

in Pile, a mixed village of special status where the Turkish Cypriots and the Greek Cypriots are living together, have been a major source of concern for both Sides. Each Side has appointed a personnel for the Pile JCR from their respective Police Departments. The Technical Committee on Crime and Criminal Matters has also continued to share information on a variety of crime-related issues and worked in collaboration with the other Technical Committees on matters within its mandate.

During the reporting period, the Technical Committee on Crossings was unable to continue its work following the resignation of the Greek Cypriot co-chair, as well as the subsequent stepping down of the Greek Cypriot Committee members. While there are numerous challenges to be addressed related to the border crossings between the two Sides, it is disappointing that it took the Greek Cypriot Side almost four months to appoint a co-chair to this technical committee. We expect the Greek Cypriot Side to take quick action to implement the measures agreed between the two Sides for the smooth and swift operation of the border crossings. However, during the reporting period, we were disappointed to see that the Greek Cypriot Side is yet to take the necessary steps to eliminate the problems causing delays at the border crossings, particularly at the Metehan/Ayios Dhometios border crossing point.

The Technical Committee on Humanitarian Affairs has been continuing to discuss the modalities to organize an awareness campaign about the difficulties faced by the elderly. Other humanitarian issues affecting Turkish Cypriots and Greek Cypriots have also been discussed by the Committee.

Following the retirement of the Turkish Cypriot co-chair of the Technical Committee on Crisis Management, the Turkish Cypriot Side appointed a replacement. Both committee co-chairs met face-to-face recently and exchanged views on a variety of subjects affecting each Side. In addition to the issues that both Sides are concerned about, including forest fires, we strongly urge the Greek Cypriot Side to approach seriously the issue of air safety, which the Turkish Cypriot Side has brought to the Committee's as well as UNFICYP's attention. This issue is related to the safety of civilian flights and the ongoing risks caused by the Greek Cypriot insistence on not establishing direct contact between Nicosia Air Traffic Control and Ercan Air Traffic Control, thus endangering human lives.

We firmly believe that collaboration should be established in the event of emergencies and natural disasters that impact both Sides, such as forest fires and earthquakes, and that an effective mechanism is developed with the involvement of officials from both Sides.

After the agreement reached by the Technical Committee on Broadcasting in the previous reporting period that would make the way for the introduction and usage of 5G across the island, TV broadcasting systems were removed from the 700 MHz frequency band. In line with the agreement, work on the transitioning from analogue to digital broadcasting, that would allow for the allocation of the 700 MHz frequency band to 5G mobile services has been continuing.

The Technical Committee on Culture agreed to hold a Video and Drawing Competition, which was approved by the Steering Committee of the Technical Committees' Support Facility. Following the agreement on this project, the preconditions put forward by the Greek Cypriot committee members have caused unnecessary delays in the implementation of the project. The Turkish Cypriot Side has made proposals to address the demands of the Greek Cypriot Side and also to overcome the delays related to the implementation of the said project, but this time the resignation of the Greek Cypriot co-chair of the Technical Committee on Culture for personal reasons halted the activities of the Committee and hindered the project. Following the appointment on 3 June 2022 of the new Greek Cypriot co-chair to the

Committee, we are ready to proceed with the implementation of the agreed project without further delay.

2. The Committee on Missing Persons

The Committee on Missing Persons (CMP) is an indispensable part of the process to help ease the years-long anguish and pain of the families and relatives of missing persons on the island. TRNC authorities have been continuing their support to the CMP's work to this end.

In this context, TRNC continues to share any new information that comes to light on possible burial sites, as it has done in 1998. Furthermore, the TRNC authorities have granted access to CMP to conduct studies in a number of State archives. Furthermore, the Archive Committee, established in 2016, has been responding in a timely manner to the specific requests of the CMP to locate additional burial sites. The Turkish Cypriot Member's Office of the CMP has been granted access to the aerial photos dating from 1974 and CMP benefitted from these aerial photos in the reporting period, particularly regarding 2 different coordinates in 2 different regions.

In 2022, with the accommodation of the TRNC, CMP completed its excavations in 16 sites; revised GPS coordinates in 4 sites and eliminated 10 sites out of 30 military areas where access had been granted in June 2019. Excavations will be conducted according to the excavation planning of the CMP.

Currently, CMP is conducting excavations in 6 different sites in the civilian areas in the TRNC. In the early spring of 2022, CMP, in coordination with the relevant military authorities in the TRNC, conducted site visits in 2 suspected burial sites for investigation purposes.

TRNC continues to support CMP financially as well. Annual financial contributions to the budget of the Office of the Turkish Cypriot Member of the CMP in the amount of approximately EUR 620,000 per year are supplemented by additional contributions. Additional contributions to date have reached EUR 325,000. It should be noted here that EU's total contributions in the amount of EUR 33,300,000 are from the funds the European Union earmarked for the economic development of Turkish Cypriots. CMP's work can be accelerated with additional funding.

In this reporting period, CMP identified 8 additional Greek Cypriots, 3 of whom were Greek Cypriot missing persons, as well as 5 Greek Cypriot deceased who were not on the CMP's official missing persons list. CMP has not identified any Turkish Cypriot missing person on CMP's official missing person list in the reporting period. It is the expectation of the Turkish Cypriot Side that the mass burial site in Atlılar village is excavated by the CMP without further delay.

3. Hellim/Halloumi

Turkish Cypriot producers continue to suffer due to the uncertainty regarding the implementation of Hellim/Halloumi Protected Designated Origin (PDO). The modalities of inspection to be conducted by control body Bureau Veritas, that was entrusted with the task of verifying compliance with PDO standards are not finalized, and there has not been an appointment to verify the food and safety standards that would enable the trade of Hellim/Halloumi to the EU markets since April 2021.

Hellim is a shared traditional cheese product that belongs to both Turkish Cypriots and Greek Cypriots. It should be recalled that on 12 April 2021, despite our persistent objections and warnings, the European Commission proceeded to adopt two legislative instruments, one registering Hellim/Halloumi as a PDO and the other purporting to enable its trade across the Green Line. While the Greek Cypriot

producers have been benefiting from the PDO registration, upon the commencement of the application of the PDO Regulation on 1 October 2021, with the relevant inspections being conducted, the same control body is yet to start inspections for Turkish Cypriot producers. Furthermore, despite its entry into force on 12 April 2021, there has not been an appointment of the delegated body for health and safety inspections that would enable the export of Hellim into the EU.

In the reporting period, the European Commission took steps to establish a working group on Hellim/Halloumi, to bring about an exchange of information, together with the sharing of experience and good practices among stakeholders relating to their participation in the PDO scheme for Hellim/Halloumi, as well as to review the functioning of the inspection system for Hellim/Halloumi. The Group shall be composed of 5 Turkish Cypriots and 5 Greek Cypriots. It is crucial that the relevant body, organisation or interest group selects and assigns their members to the working group, in order to ensure the effective representation of their interests.

EU's undertaking in the PDO Regulation in respect to Hellim registration is to ensure that there is a 'workable arrangement' on the Island for both Turkish Cypriot producers and Greek Cypriot producers alike. In case the Turkish Cypriot producers continue to be excluded from benefitting from the registration, due to the unnecessary formalities/obstacles and/or the lack of the necessary inspection schemes, the European Commission is obliged to proceed with the cancellation of the PDO registration for the whole Island as it is provided for in the PDO Regulation.

4. Isolation and Restrictions

The Greek Cypriot policy of imposing isolation and restrictions on the Turkish Cypriot People has been continuing since 1963. The isolation imposed on the Turkish Cypriot People ranges from denying their right of representation in the international arena, including 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 emphasise that the unjust isolation imposed on the Turkish Cypriot People is also the most important element poisoning the relations between the two Sides and their Peoples, thus undermining the efforts to build confidence, as well as the prospect of a freely negotiated and mutually acceptable settlement on the Island.

The implementation of this obstructionist policy was also carried out on the island during this reporting period. As we are trying to increase people-to-people contact and enhance the number of border crossings, the Greek Cypriot Side has been continuing with its policy aimed at hindering the crossing of people. Despite numerous discussions, steps have not been taken by the Greek Cypriot Side to ease the congestion, in particular at the Metehan/Ayios Dhometios border crossing in Lefkoşa, which could simply be resolved by increasing the number of personnel. Currently, the Greek Cypriot Side offers MOT services only at the Metehan/Ayios Dhometios border crossing and making this service available at other border crossing points will help speed up crossings at the Metehan/Ayios Dhometios border crossing.

The Greek Cypriot Side also introduced a smear campaign against our businesses, business people and even medical professionals. This campaign, aimed at discouraging Greek Cypriots from using Turkish Cypriot products and services, adversely affects Turkish Cypriot economy, which is also contrary to the calls of the UNSC.

5. Hydrocarbons

Hydrocarbon resources around the island of Cyprus are co-owned by Turkish Cypriots and Greek Cypriots. This fact is accepted by both Sides on the Island, and

all relevant and involved parties. Because of the hegemonic policy of the Greek Cypriot leadership, the discovery of hydrocarbon resources off the shores of the Island turned into an area of contention between the two Sides, as well as the coastal States and stakeholders of the region.

In the reporting period, the Greek Cypriot Side resumed their illegal hydrocarbon activities, despite our repeated calls for cooperation, in total disregard of our co-ownership rights and the maritime claims of the Republic of Türkiye. We consider this to be yet another hostile act that will have negative repercussions on regional security, stability and cooperation. With such acts the Greek Cypriot side leaves no option for Turkish Cypriots but to respond in kind, together with Türkiye, to protect our rights, while leaving the door open for cooperation and diplomacy.

Preferring diplomacy over unilateralism, the Turkish Cypriot Side has put forth three constructive proposals to foster cooperation and alleviate tensions, all of which aim at turning this crisis into a mutually beneficial opportunity.

In this respect, the Turkish Cypriot proposal, dated 13 July 2019 is still on the table. Our proposal envisages the establishment of a joint committee to be composed of an equal number of members coming from the two Sides. The decisions on the offshore hydrocarbon activities, including revenue-sharing, shall be jointly taken up by the Turkish Cypriot Side and the Greek Cypriot Side. Decisions taken and arrangements made in this respect shall not prejudice the legal and political positions of the Turkish Cypriot Side and the Greek Cypriot Side on the Cyprus issue.

Moreover, HE Mr Recep Tayyip Erdoğan, the President of the Republic of Türkiye, has a standing proposal to convene a regional East-Med conference on hydrocarbons with the participation of the Turkish Cypriot Side, Greek Cypriot Side, coastal States, and stakeholders.

6. Maraş/Varosha

The Closed Part of Maraş is TRNC territory and is a military area with no current users.

We have been receiving an increasing number of applications and claims from the former inhabitants of this area and have now decided to address these claims. This move is aimed at enabling the former inhabitants of the area to be granted by the ECtHR-sanctioned Immovable Property Commission (IPC) all three remedies regarding property claims. In July 2021, the TRNC Government has lifted the Military Zone Status of a pilot area which corresponds to approximately 3.5% of Maraş.

We consider this process as a positive step that respects the rights of the inhabitants of the area in line with the calls of the relevant international actors and bodies.

In the reporting period, the number of applications before IPC concerning the closed part of Maraş has increased to 459. This development shows that the Maraş opening of the Turkish Cypriot Side continues to be well-received by the former inhabitants of the said area. I am determined, together with my Government, to continue implementing this opening and our internationally-sanctioned Immovable Property Commission is currently in the process of evaluating Greek Cypriot former inhabitants' applications concerning this area.