

**Statement delivered by Special Adviser of the Secretary-General on Cyprus
Espen Barth Eide on behalf of the Greek Cypriot leader Mr. Nicos
Anastasiades and the Turkish Cypriot leader Mr. Mustafa Akıncı
Wednesday, 17 June 2015**

The Turkish Cypriot leader, Mr. Mustafa Akıncı, and the Greek Cypriot leader, Mr. Nicos Anastasiades, held their third meeting today. With strong determination, and driven by their joint commitment, they pursued their goal of reaching a comprehensive settlement as soon as possible.

Today, the leaders jointly reviewed the work achieved by their negotiators to date. They welcomed the successful conclusion of the baseline assessment that they had entrusted to the negotiators in their first meeting on 15 May 2015.

Upon completing the baseline assessment, the leaders are now entering into substantive negotiations on unresolved core issues. The leaders agreed that these negotiations will be the centerpiece of their work from now on and that they will be dealt with in a holistic and interdependent manner. Therefore, Mr. Anastasiades and Mr. Akıncı have tasked their negotiators to focus their work on a specific set of core issues across chapters. They will work intensively on this task and report back to the next leaders' meeting to be held on 29 June 2015.

The leaders also reviewed the implementation of those confidence building measures that were previously announced. Mr. Akıncı and Mr. Anastasiades continued their work on further confidence-building measures in parallel to the negotiation process.

The leaders formulated a mandate for the new committee on gender equality and appointed its members.

Reaffirming the constructive atmosphere at the negotiating table, Mr. Anastasiades and Mr. Akıncı expressed once again their resolve to move forward without delay and to achieve further progress towards reaching a comprehensive settlement.

As previously agreed, the next leaders' meeting will take place here on Monday, 29 June 2015.