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16 October 2023

Excellency,

I am writing in response to the statement made by the Greek Cypriot representative at the 3rd Formal Meeting of the UN General Assembly Fifth Committee under Agenda Item 134: “Proposed Programme Budget 2024 – Special Political Missions” held on 4 October 2023, during which the Greek Cypriot side has, once again, opted to exploit the absence of the Turkish Cypriot side in the United Nations organs, this time during budgetary discussions, to further its political agenda. Therefore, I deem it necessary to set the record straight.

The Greek Cypriot representative, once again, opened her speech by highlighting the fact that “*deliberations on Special Political Missions in the context of the Fifth Committee ought to focus solely on budgetary matters*”, but immediately moved on to political issues with a view to imposing a specific agreement framework on the Turkish Cypriot side as well as the United Nations Organization.

Almost 60 years of perennial and inconclusive negotiations on the “bi-zonal, bi-communal federation” formula clearly reflect the unequivocal truth that insisting on the same failed basis to solve the Cyprus issue only serves to the perpetuation of the unacceptable and unsustainable status quo on the island, where the Greek Cypriot side is treated as if it is the “legitimate government of the whole island” and the Turkish Cypriot side is treated as if it is a mere “community”. As is known, the Greek Cypriot side indeed only pays lip service to the exhausted “bi-zonal, bi-communal federation” framework, as evidenced by its intransigent stance in the past negotiation processes, including the Annan Plan (2004) and the Cyprus Conference held in Crans Montana, Switzerland (2017).

H.E. Mr. António Guterres
Secretary-General of the United Nations
New York

cc: H.E. Mr. Dennis Francis
President of the General Assembly
of the United Nations
New York

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Decades of failed negotiations clearly show that the reluctance of the international community to expressly acknowledge the inherent rights of the Turkish Cypriot people takes away from the Greek Cypriot side any incentive for compromise, thus making a negotiated settlement impossible. It is high time that this asymmetric basis is once and for all replaced, not only in words but by deeds as well, with equilibrium between the two sides so that result-oriented negotiations can be conducted between two sovereign equals.

Availing myself of this opportunity, I would like to once again reiterate that our State is ready to engage in formal negotiations to establish a structured cooperative relationship with the Greek Cypriot side, following the acknowledgement of our inherent rights of sovereign equality and equal international status.

I would be grateful if the present letter is circulated as an official document of the General Assembly, under agenda item 40 of its 78th Session, and of the Security Council.

Please accept, Excellency, the assurances of my highest consideration.



Mehmet Dâna
Representative

Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus

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