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Excellency,

I am writing in response to the answer given by H.E. Mr. Dennis Francis, President of the 78th United Nations General Assembly, to a question on Cyprus during his final press conference dated 9 September 2024. The said statement is misleading as it contains significant inaccuracies pertaining to legal as well as historical facts of the island, particularly the remark that *"This situation has gone on, as you know, for a very long time, since 1974, I believe"*. Therefore, I am compelled to respond in writing in order to set the record straight.

As is known, the Cyprus problem commenced in 1963, not in 1974, when the Greek Cypriot side forcibly usurped the title of the partnership Republic of Cyprus and expelled by force of arms the Turkish Cypriot partner from all state organs. During the years from 1963 to 1974, the Greek Cypriot militia, aided and encouraged by Greece, took part in an ethnic cleansing campaign against Turkish Cypriot people, known as the *Akritis Plan*, with the ultimate aim of achieving *Enosis*, the annexation of the entire island to Greece. This large-scale violence and ensuing gross human rights violations necessitated the UN Security Council to deploy UNFICYP to the island in 1964 in order to stop the bloodshed and the atrocities perpetrated against the Turkish Cypriot people. In 1974, after eleven years of Turkish Cypriot suffering at the hands of the Greek Cypriot militia, Guarantor Türkiye had to intervene, in line with the obligations arising from the 1959 International Cyprus Treaties, in order to prevent the total annihilation of Turkish Cypriot people.

Against this background, it is clear that the remarks of H.E. Mr. Dennis Francis are not corroborated by legal and historical facts pertaining to Cyprus.

I would be grateful if the present letter is included in the document of the General Assembly.

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

(p.p.) Mehmet Dâna
Representative
Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus

H.E. Mr. Philemon Yang
President of the 79th Session of the United Nations General Assembly
New York