

The President of the Security Council presents her compliments to the members of the Council and has the honour to transmit herewith, for their information, a copy of a **letter dated 28 December 2024 from the Permanent Representative of Türkiye to the United Nations** addressed to the Secretary-General, and its enclosure.

This letter and its enclosure will be issued as a document of the Security Council under the symbol S/2024/987.

30 December 2024

BİRLEŞMİŞ MİLLETLER NEZDİNDE
TÜRKİYE DAİMİ TEMSİLCİLİĞİ



PERMANENT MISSION OF TÜRKİYE
TO THE UNITED NATIONS

2024/14136816/39261489

28 December 2024

Excellency,

I have the honour to transmit herewith a letter dated 28 December 2024, addressed to you by Mr. Mehmet Dâna, Representative of the Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus.

I would be grateful if the present letter and its annex could be circulated as a document of the General Assembly under agenda item 40 and 75(a), and of the Security Council.

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

Ahmet Yıldız
Permanent Representative

Encl.: Letter by Mr. Mehmet Dâna
Representative of the Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus

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



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December 28, 2024

Excellency,

Upon instructions from my Government, I am writing to kindly convey the concerns of the Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus (TRNC) regarding a recent provocative action of the Greek Cypriot administration of Southern Cyprus in the Eastern Mediterranean, namely the issuance of a NAVTEX valid from December 24, 2024 to February 24, 2025 in relation to preparation works and drilling operations within the so-called "Block 5" by the consortium of ExxonMobil and Qatar Energy. This action constitutes yet another blatant attempt to violate the Turkish Cypriot people's inalienable and inherent rights on the natural resources in and around the island.

At the outset, I wish to underline the fact that unilateral and provocative Greek Cypriot policies *vis-à-vis* the matter are based on the false pretense that the Greek Cypriot administration of Southern Cyprus has legal or moral right to represent or act on behalf of the entire island. This extends to unlawful acts by the Greek Cypriot administration such as signing bilateral agreements on the delimitation of maritime borders, opening tenders and licensing energy companies to conduct exploration and exploitation activities. As is known, the Turkish Cypriot side has made written representations to the United Nations and put on record that these unilateral actions of the Greek Cypriot side, undertaken without the consent and joint decision of the Turkish Cypriot side, are totally unacceptable and not binding in any way on the Turkish Cypriot people.

At the core of the Cyprus problem and the matters pertaining to it, including oil/natural gas exploration and exploitation activities, stands the unlawful claim of the Greek Cypriot side to be the "government of the Republic of Cyprus", the legitimacy of which ceased to exist when the Turkish Cypriot people were forcibly ejected from all its organs in 1963. As a matter of fact, there has not been a joint central administration capable of representing the entire island since 1963, but there exist two independent self-governing States on the Island of Cyprus.

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

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On the issue of hydrocarbon resources, the TRNC has always maintained the view that cooperation, dialogue and diplomacy should be the preferred option over unilateral actions aimed at creating a *fait accompli*, so that escalation of tensions in the region can be avoided. No doubt, cooperation between the two sides on a variety of issues, including hydrocarbon resources, would contribute to the prosperity and well being of the two peoples on the island, as well as the stability and peace of the region. Needless to say, Your Excellency's oft-repeated call that the two sides should "*cooperate to jointly exploit and benefit from common natural resources*" (most recently in S/2024/526, para 40) continues to have the full support of the Turkish Cypriot side, which indeed has long been making the same call to the Greek Cypriot side.

Accordingly, in addition to our constructive proposals made to the Greek Cypriot side in 2011, 2012 and 2019, the Turkish Cypriot side made an updated proposal on July 1, 2022 as a fresh attempt to enable cooperation on hydrocarbons, which also included, *inter alia*, specific proposals for cooperation on other energy related issues. Unfortunately, the Greek Cypriot administration to this day refuses the peaceful path of dialogue and cooperation with the Turkish Cypriot side. In the face of the persistent unilateral acts of the Greek Cypriot side, the TRNC Ministry of Foreign Affairs has made it known with its official statements, most recently on 28 December 2024, that our State would take equivalent and reciprocal measures to protect the inherent and inalienable rights of the Turkish Cypriot people on the hydrocarbon resources in and around the island.

It must also be borne in mind that, any regional cooperation or forum on this issue that excludes the Turkish Cypriot side and Türkiye is unrealistic as well as counterproductive, and can serve no purpose other than to increase tensions in the Eastern Mediterranean. In this regard, I would also like to reiterate that the Turkish Cypriot side, as the co-owner of hydrocarbon resources in and around the island, is ready to participate in an "Eastern Mediterranean Conference" as proposed by Türkiye, which would take into account the legitimate rights and interests of all the relevant parties and stakeholders in the region.

I should be grateful if the present letter could be circulated, under agenda items 40 and 75(a), as a document of the General Assembly and of the Security Council.

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

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Mehmet Dâna
Representative

Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus