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31 January 2025

Excellency,

The United Nations Security Council adopted Resolution 2771 (2025) today regarding the extension of the mandate of the United Nations Peacekeeping Force in Cyprus (UNFICYP). The detailed observations of the Turkish Cypriot side regarding this Resolution have already been conveyed verbally and in writing (see annex) to the Presidency of the Security Council.

Upon instructions from my Government, I would like to underline, once again, the views of the Turkish Cypriot side *vis-à-vis* the issue of consent as well as the modalities of the operations of UNFICYP within the territory of the Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus (TRNC). As you are well aware, in line with Resolution 2436 (2018), which is also referred to in the present Resolution, one of the governing principles of UN peacekeeping operations throughout the world is the requirement that the consent of all parties to the dispute is sought and obtained. In a similar vein, it is also clearly stated in the Report of the Panel on United Nations Peace Operations (Brahimi Report), “...that consent of the local parties and impartiality [...] should remain the bedrock principles of peacekeeping.” Thus, UNFICYP can operate on both sides of the island only on the basis of the consent of both parties. Otherwise, UNFICYP not only puts into question its impartiality, but also “risks becoming a party to the conflict”, as stated in the United Nations Peacekeeping Operations Principles and Guidelines. Indeed, the principle of consent is also fundamental to the UN Secretary-General’s good offices mission which treats the Turkish Cypriot and Greek Cypriot sides on the island on an equal footing. Furthermore, since political processes are directly interlinked with peacekeeping operations, refraining from seeking the consent of one of the sides in relation to UNFICYP would also constitute a serious shortcoming in this regard.

In view of the above, it should be recalled that there are two sovereign States, two jurisdictions and two territories on the island of Cyprus, and that in the territory of the Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus where its Government is the sole competent authority, UNFICYP can only operate with its permission and consent. As will be recalled, the necessity to seek and obtain the consent of each side is also manifested by the separate and simultaneous referenda held on both sides of the island in April 2004 on the UN Comprehensive Settlement Plan on Cyprus (i.e. the Annan Plan). It is long overdue that the relevant references in the resolutions on UNFICYP and the Annan Plan be updated to reflect this reality.

H.E. Mr. Amar Bendjama
Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary
Permanent Representative of Algeria
to the United Nations
President of the Security Council
for the month of January 2025
New York.

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Needless to say, the consent for the extension of the mandate of UNFICYP sought and obtained prior to the adoption of the Resolution 2771 (2025) from the Greek Cypriot side, which purports to be the long-defunct "Government of Cyprus", only covers the operations of UNFICYP in South Cyprus. In view of this fact, I feel obliged to state that while UNFICYP personnel have operated to this date within the territory of the TRNC as a gesture of the good-will of the Turkish Cypriot side and with the permission of our Government, there is no doubt that our current relationship with UNFICYP is not sustainable and cannot continue "business as usual". In view of the foregoing, UNFICYP's continued lack of sincere engagement with our authorities with a view to developing the modalities of its operations in the TRNC within a reasonable time frame will leave us with no option but to reconsider our approach towards this issue.

I would be grateful if this letter as well as its annex, enclosed herewith, could be circulated to the members 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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