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9 September 2026

Excellency,

Upon instructions from my Government, I am writing in response to the letter dated 7 August 2026 addressed to Your Excellency by the Greek Cypriot representative in New York, which has been circulated as a document of the General Assembly (A/80/809). The said letter not only blatantly distorts the well-known historical and legal facts pertaining to the island of Cyprus, but also makes attempts to disinform the international community regarding the Memorandum of Understanding signed between Türkiye and the Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus (TRNC) for the construction of an undersea natural gas pipeline project between the two countries. Therefore, I am compelled to respond in writing in order to set the record straight.

At the outset, allow me to underline, once again, that there is no single authority in the island of Cyprus capable of representing both the Turkish Cypriot People and the Greek Cypriot People or the island as a whole. Since 1963, when the Turkish Cypriot People were forcibly and unlawfully ousted from all of the state organs of the 1960 Partnership Republic of Cyprus, there has not been a joint central administration capable of representing the entire island. As a matter of fact, there exist two separate Peoples and two separate States on the island. Thus, statements made by Greek Cypriot representatives under their purported title as representatives of the so-called "Republic of Cyprus" are legally null and void as far as the Turkish Cypriot People are concerned.

As is well known, in the wake of the eleven-year period of suffering endured by the Turkish Cypriot People between 1963 and 1974 at the hands of the Greek Cypriot militia, which culminated in the Greek junta-backed coup d'état of 1974, Guarantor Türkiye was obliged to intervene in accordance with her rights and obligations under the 1960 Treaty of Guarantee, bringing peace to the island by putting an end not only to the violence inflicted against the Turkish Cypriot People, but also to the violence committed by the Greek Cypriot militia against its own people.

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

cc: H.E. Mr. Khalilur Rahman
President of the General Assembly
of the United Nations
New York

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Despite these facts, Greek Cypriot representatives have long been attempting to portray the Cyprus issue as one of “invasion” and “occupation”. In reality, none of the UN Security Council resolutions on Cyprus describe the legitimate and justified intervention of Türkiye in the island as “invasion” or its subsequent presence on the island as “occupation”. It should also be noted that the resolutions mentioned by the Greek Cypriot representative, namely resolutions 541 (1983) and 550 (1984), constitute the basis of the status disparity between the Turkish Cypriot People and the Greek Cypriot People and remain among the principal causes of the deadlock in the Cyprus issue.

Similarly, the Greek Cypriot representative’s repeated baseless references to a so-called “*illegal secessionist entity*” are nothing but pure Greek Cypriot propaganda aimed at distorting the realities of the island. Within this context, it should be remembered that there is no general rule in international law that categorically prohibits or criminalizes acts aimed at establishing separate statehood, particularly when a people have been subjected to severe atrocities, as was the case for the Turkish Cypriot People. It should also be emphasized that the proclamation of the TRNC in 1983 was not an abrupt development. Having been compelled to administer their own affairs following years of hardship, oppression and forced displacement, the Turkish Cypriot People developed their own governance structures, which culminated initially in the establishment of the Provisional Administration of Turkish Cyprus (1967-1974), followed by the Autonomous Turkish Cypriot Administration (1974-1975), then the Turkish Federated State of Cyprus (1975-1983) and ultimately in the proclamation of the TRNC.

On the issue of the signing of the aforementioned Memorandum of Understanding between Türkiye and the TRNC, we have difficulty in understanding the Greek Cypriot representative’s criticism. There are serious and longstanding issues with energy supply and electricity production in the island, affecting both the TRNC and the Greek Cypriot administration of Southern Cyprus. These issues are further exacerbated by the intransigent stance of the Greek Cypriot administration concerning the vital needs of the island, particularly energy security.

This new pipeline project is envisaged to meet energy and, in particular, electricity demands on the island in a much cleaner and more sustainable manner given that both the North and the South of the island still use fuel oil to produce electricity, which is, needless to say, certainly not environmentally friendly and conflicts with carbon reduction objectives.

In this regard, the initial idea was to address the TRNC’s electricity needs through an electricity interconnection with Türkiye; however, this has so far not proven possible due to obstacles brought forward by the Greek Cypriot administration. Had there been progress on this matter, a mutually beneficial arrangement could have been established to supply both sides of the island with separate interconnections. Moreover, in the future, electricity generated from renewables on both sides of the island could have been exported towards Türkiye and beyond. Unfortunately, the Greek Cypriot administration continues to hold the EU hostage on this issue as on other matters, to the detriment of the entire island. As Your Excellency is aware, the Greek Cypriot administration has also been hindering agreement on one of the cooperation areas aiming

to build trust between the two peoples within the framework of the process you initiated in 2025, namely solar energy production in the buffer zone. Given this backdrop, it should not have come as a surprise to anybody that the TRNC and Türkiye are now taking steps to address the electricity issue through other means.

Furthermore, as the two sides on the island have an interconnected power grid system, implementing the new undersea natural gas pipeline project will also enable the TRNC to supply the Greek Cypriot administration with clean electricity as well, should the latter choose to cooperate and make use of this opportunity. Additionally, the pipeline between the TRNC and Türkiye will be bidirectional, which will allow natural gas from Eastern Mediterranean resources to be transported, if future conditions allow, via the island to Türkiye and Europe. As is widely known, this is by far the most feasible and cost-effective alternative. In light of these facts, the Greek Cypriot administration should welcome this infrastructure project rather than resorting to unfounded objections.

I also wish to point out that criticism regarding the timing of this project is misplaced. Currently, there is no common ground between the two sides on the island as regards an agreement in the Cyprus issue. The Greek Cypriot administration has also refused to move forward on important cooperation areas such as the opening of new border crossing points or the abovementioned solar energy production in the buffer zone. The Greek Cypriot administration is also engaging in unilateral drilling activities in the Eastern Mediterranean and in the process completely ignoring the legitimate, equal and inherent rights of the Turkish Cypriot People, who are co-owners of the island of Cyprus, over all of the natural resources on and around the island. Moreover, the Greek Cypriot administration is campaigning to undermine the property regime in the TRNC, which was shaped under the guidance of and endorsed by the European Court of Human Rights.

I would like to strongly emphasize that all of the abovementioned actions are taking place while the Greek Cypriot administration is increasing its efforts towards further armament and militarization of the island through new agreements with third countries, including some EU member countries. In short, with the Greek Cypriot administration doing everything in its power to erode trust between the two sides and undermine any prospects for an eventual settlement, the TRNC should not be expected to bear the consequences of being deprived of access to energy, a vital necessity for the well-being and development of its people. The Greek Cypriot administration needs to do a sincere cost-benefit assessment and finally admit that a settlement of the Cyprus issue based on the realities on the ground will be in everyone's interest. Rather than resorting to unfounded criticisms, the Greek Cypriot administration should acknowledge the benefits of the natural gas pipeline project for the entire island and for the region.

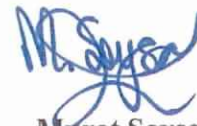
In closing, I would also like to underline that the isolation of the TRNC from the international community does not automatically mean that all acts undertaken by the Turkish Cypriot authorities are devoid of legal effect or that every arrangement concluded by the TRNC is null and void *ab initio*. Significantly, international practice and jurisprudence, including that of the

International Court of Justice and the European Court of Human Rights, recognize that states lacking widespread recognition may nevertheless perform acts producing legal consequences in certain contexts, particularly where required for the administration of daily life, the protection of rights, and the maintenance of legal certainty.

Availing myself of the present opportunity, I would also like to remind the Greek Cypriot administration that its counterpart is, and has always been, the TRNC, not Türkiye.

I would be grateful if the present letter could be circulated, under agenda items 39 and 75, as an official document of the 81st session of the General Assembly, and published on the website of the Division for Ocean Affairs and the Law of the Sea, as well as in the next edition of the *Law of the Sea Bulletin*.

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



Murat Soysal
Representative
Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus



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Re: Office of the Representative of the Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus
Registration No. 2619
Filing of Copy of Document Disseminated September 9, 2026.

Dear Madam/Sir:

Enclosed for filing please find the following disseminated document:

- 1. Dissemination Date: September 9, 2026.** A four (4) page letter dated September 9, 2026 by Mr. Murat Soysal, Representative of the Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus in New York to H.E. Mr. António Guterres, Secretary-General of the United Nations and H.E. Mr. Khalilur Rahman, President of the General Assembly of the United Nations, for its circulation to all members of the General Assembly as an official UN document.

Sincerely yours,

Murat Soysal
Representative