



General Assembly

Distr.: General
4 July 2013

Original: English

Human Rights Council

Twenty-second session

Agenda item 3

**Promotion and protection of all human rights, civil,
political, economic, social and cultural rights,
including the right to development**

Note verbale dated 8 May 2013 from the Permanent Mission of the Republic of Cyprus to the United Nations Office at Geneva addressed to the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights

The Permanent Mission of the Republic of Cyprus to the Office of the United Nations at Geneva and other international organizations in Switzerland presents its compliments to the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights and has the honour to provide the comments of the Government of the Republic of Cyprus in relation to the note verbale dated 15 March 2013 from the Permanent Mission of Turkey to the United Nations Office at Geneva addressed to the Office of the High Commissioner (A/HRC/22/G/15) on the report of the Special Rapporteur on freedom of religion or belief on his mission to Cyprus (A/HRC/22/51/Add.1), circulated under agenda item 3 at the twenty-second session of the Human Rights Council.

The Government of the Republic of Cyprus regrets that Turkey procured the circulation to the Human Rights Council of a letter from its subordinate local administration, the self-styled “Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus”, which Turkey wrongfully recognizes as an independent State. That entity has been declared unlawful by the Security Council in its resolutions 541 (1983) and 550 (1984) and in repeated reiterations of those resolutions. Accordingly, the Republic of Cyprus will not concern itself with the inaccurate substance of that non-State’s letter, nor is it willing to engage in a propaganda war that Turkey’s subordinate local administration is seeking to provoke.

The Government of the Republic of Cyprus wishes to reaffirm its commitment to the protection of the universal human right to freedom of religion, and to reiterate that the above-mentioned report of the Special Rapporteur on freedom of religion or belief on his mission to Cyprus, and the recommendations thereon, are being taken into careful consideration by the competent authorities of the Republic.

The Permanent Mission of the Republic of Cyprus kindly requests the Office of the High Commissioner to circulate the present note verbale as a document of the twenty-second session of the Human Rights Council.