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Universal periodic review

Letter dated 16 February 2010 from the Permanent Representative of Cyprus to the United Nations Office at Geneva addressed to the President of the Human Rights Council

In accordance with the instructions received from the Government of the Republic of Cyprus, I have the honour to refer to the note verbale dated 23 December 2009 from the Permanent Mission of Turkey to the United Nations Office at Geneva addressed to the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (A/HRC/13/G/4) requesting the circulation of a note in connection with the intergovernmental process of the review of the Republic of Cyprus by the Working Group on the Universal Periodic Review at its sixth meeting on 30 November 2009.

The position of the Republic of Cyprus on this issue is well known. The aforementioned Turkish note confirms in no uncertain terms that the sole purpose of Turkey's decision to participate in the universal periodic review of the Republic of Cyprus was to question the very existence of the State under review. By so doing, Turkey acted in wilful violation of the fundamental principles of the universal periodic review, as contained in the annex to Human Rights Council resolution 5/1 on the institution-building of the Council, namely that "the universal periodic review should be conducted in an objective, transparent, non-selective, constructive, non-confrontational and non-politicized manner". Turkey's allegations were also inconsistent with a fundamental element of the basis of the review as contained in the annex to resolution 5/1, namely the Charter of the United Nations.

Furthermore, by outrageously alleging that the State Member of the United Nations under review did not exist, Turkey made a mockery of the whole exercise of the Working Group at its meeting of 30 November 2009, as well as of the principles of the review itself, which specify, inter alia, that "the universal periodic review should fully involve the country under review". Turkey's action was not only insulting to the State under review, but was also detrimental to the credibility of the universal periodic review mechanism.

As to the substance of the above-mentioned Turkish note, the Government of the Republic of Cyprus firmly rejects all the points therein, since they are in flagrant breach of more than 100 Security Council resolutions on the situation in Cyprus.

I should be grateful if you would circulate the text of the present letter as a document of the thirteenth session of the Council under agenda item 6.

(Signed) Andreas **Hadjichrysanthou**