



# Economic and Social Council

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## Economic and Social Council

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Agenda items 5 (a) and 6

**High-level segment: ministerial meeting of the high-level political forum on sustainable development, convened under the auspices of the Economic and Social Council**

**High-level political forum on sustainable development, convened under the auspices of the Economic and Social Council**

### **Letter dated 4 August 2021 from the Chargé d'affaires a.i. of the Mission of Turkey to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General**

I have the honour to transmit herewith a letter dated 4 August 2021, addressed to you by Seval Gökeri, Chargé d'affaires a.i. of the Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus (see annex).

I would be grateful if the present letter and its annex could be issued as a document of the Economic and Social Council, under agenda items 5 (a) and 6.

*(Signed)* Serhad Varlı  
Deputy Permanent Representative  
Chargé d'affaires a.i.



## **Annex to the letter dated 4 August 2021 from the Chargé d'affaires a.i. of the Mission of Turkey to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General**

I am writing in response to the *Second Voluntary National Review: Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)* published by the Greek Cypriot administration of Southern Cyprus, presented on 15 July 2021 during the ministerial segment of the high-level political forum on sustainable development convened under the auspices of the Economic and Social Council, and would like to draw your kind attention to the following pertinent facts and considerations of the Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus.

At the outset, I wish to emphasize that the Greek Cypriot administration, which purports to be the “Government of the Republic of Cyprus”, has no legal or moral right to represent or act on behalf of the Turkish Cypriot people and the Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus. Therefore, the information and activities presented in the review do not reflect the situation in the Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus and do not represent the views and the works of the Turkish Cypriot people.

The claim in the review that “due to the continued illegal occupation of 36.2% of the territory of the Republic of Cyprus by Turkish military forces since 1974, the Government of the Republic of Cyprus does not exercise effective control over all of its national territory” contradicts the realities on the island and is totally unacceptable. It is amply clear that, since the destruction of the 1960 partnership Republic in 1963 through force of arms by the Greek Cypriots, neither side has had jurisdiction over the other and each side has ruled itself since then. Hence, ever since the forcible expulsion in 1963 of the Turkish Cypriot co-founder partner from the Government of the partnership Republic, there has been no single constitutional Government representing both peoples of the island or capable of representing, legally or factually, the whole of Cyprus. Each side has since ruled itself, while the Greek Cypriot side has continued to unlawfully claim that it is the “Government of Cyprus”. Today, there are two separate States on the island of Cyprus governing themselves and having separate sovereignty over their respective territories.

The Greek Cypriot side has been continuing to misinform the international community by portraying the Cyprus problem as one of “occupation”. It is crucial to underline in this regard that none of the United Nations Security Council resolutions on Cyprus describe the legitimate and justified Turkish presence on the island, in line with the 1960 International Cyprus Treaties, as an “occupation”. In fact, the only occupation on the island is the occupation of the seat of the government by the Greek Cypriot administration since 1963.

From 1963 to 1974, a period that the Greek Cypriot representatives conveniently choose to ignore, the Greek Cypriots, aided and encouraged by Greece, took part in an ethnic cleansing campaign against Turkish Cypriots, known as the Akritas Plan, with the ultimate aim of achieving Enosis (the annexation of the island to Greece). This large-scale violence and ensuing gross human rights violations necessitated the United Nations Security Council to deploy the United Nations Peacekeeping Force in Cyprus in 1964 in order to stop the bloodshed and the atrocities perpetrated against the Turkish Cypriot people. There is a plethora of United Nations documents attesting to these crimes against humanity. In the face of such atrocities against Turkish Cypriots, Turkey intervened on the island in accordance with its rights and obligations under the 1960 Treaty of Guarantee following the Greek/Greek Cypriot coup d'état in 1974. I therefore would like to highlight that the Turkish military presence on the island is a vital security requirement and a demand of the Turkish Cypriot people as

it serves as a deterrent against the recurrence of Greek/Greek Cypriot aggression and violence on the island.

The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development offers a unique opportunity for countries to integrate sustainable development policies into their national policies and deal with global challenges. Although the Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus is unfairly excluded from the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development Goals, the Government of the Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus is firmly committed to continuing to include the Sustainable Development Goals in its own development plan and to taking action for the effective implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

I would be grateful if the present letter could be issued as a document of the Economic and Social Council, under agenda items 5 (a) and 6.

*(Signed)* Seval **Gökeri**  
Deputy Representative  
Chargé d'affaires a.i.

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