



**Statement by Turkey**  
**On Agenda Item 152: UNFICYP**  
**Fifth Committee-2nd Part of the Resumed 74th Session**  
**(May 2020)**

My delegation expresses its thanks to the UN Secretariat and the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions (ACABQ) for submitting their respective reports for individual peacekeeping missions.

We also take this opportunity to pay tribute to the uniformed and civilian women and men and other personnel for their work and dedication in maintaining peace and security in different parts of the world, especially during these challenging times due to Coronavirus pandemic. We honor those who have given their lives in the cause of peace, as well as those who continue to risk their lives. We commend peacekeepers assisting local communities in their effort to fight the COVID-19 outbreak.

We express appreciation for the collective and constructive effort of the Fifth Committee members, as well as the invaluable support of the Fifth Committee Secretariat, the ACABQ, and UN Secretariat for ensuring business continuity under current circumstances.

Turkey is fully committed to successful UN Peacekeeping in support of international peace and security. Turkey will work collaboratively within the Committee on the budgetary and operational elements of Peacekeeping operations, with a special focus on ensuring greater clarity and transparency in how resources are linked to mandated tasks.

With reference to the reports of the Secretary-General and ACABQ on the 2018-2019 budget performance and to the proposed budget of the United Nations Peacekeeping Force in Cyprus (UNFICYP) for 2020-2021, Turkey would like to register the following points.

First of all, Turkey, along with the Turkish Cypriot side, remains committed to finding a mutually acceptable solution to the Cyprus issue, and we have repeatedly demonstrated our resolve in this regard.

We regret to observe that in the abovementioned reports as well as in the Supplementary Documents containing responses provided by the Secretariat to the ACABQ, UNFICYP continues to tend to completely ignore one side on the island, namely the Turkish Cypriot side. In the said documents, the bedrock principle for all UN peacekeeping operations, namely that the consent of all parties to a conflict must be sought is grossly overlooked, which constitutes a serious shortfall.

The UNFICYP still operates in the Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus (TRNC) territory thanks to the TRNC authorities' goodwill and constructive approach, without a legal basis. Despite repeated calls by the Turkish Cypriot side for the signing of a Status of Forces

Agreement (SOFA) or agreeing on another mutually acceptable legal arrangement in order to establish the legal ground for UNFICYP's operations in the north, UNFICYP has refrained from signing such a document as of yet. Moreover, it even avoids holding consultations about its operations within the TRNC territory, including those in Maraş/Varosha.

In a similar vein, we expect UNFICYP to contact Turkish Cypriot authorities in order to coordinate in particular its plan to install additional CCTV systems in and around areas that fall under the TRNC jurisdiction and any other work that concerns the Turkish Cypriot side.

Lastly, the fact that among the required qualifications for the proposed post of Associate Legal Officer, only the knowledge of Greek is sought, while Turkish is not even considered, constitutes a testament to such one-sided approach by UNFICYP and completely disregards the bilingual nature of the island.

Thank you.