



**STATEMENT BY THE DELEGATION OF THE REPUBLIC OF CYPRUS
ON AGENDA ITEM 158 FINANCING OF UNITED NATIONS PEACEKEEPING FORCE IN
CYPRUS (UNFICYP)
FIFTH COMMITTEE – SECOND PART OF THE RESUMED 75th SESSION OF THE GENERAL
ASSEMBLY, MAY 2021**

Mr. Chair,

We extend our deep appreciation to the UN Secretariat and the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions (ACABQ) for their respective reports on the Budget for the United Nations Peacekeeping Force in Cyprus (UNFICYP), which are under consideration.

As a member of the European Union, the Republic of Cyprus echoes the clear and unequivocal statement by the EU.

We are compelled to exercise the right of reply to Turkey's statement, since the latter is objectionable on grounds of substance, as well as relevance in the context of the Fifth Committee, whose deliberations ought to remain purely technical. The provocative claims of Turkey undermine the workings of this Committee by politicizing and poisoning the atmosphere of our discussions. Amongst others, this is a failure of Turkey to act in accordance with and honour the privilege of being currently represented in the Bureau of the Committee.

It is recalled that the Fifth Committee considers the administrative and budgetary aspects of the financing of United Nations peacekeeping operations, in line with the mandates approved by the UN Security Council. In its statement, however, Turkey blatantly controverts numerous UN Security Council resolutions and contradicts international law and legality.

Turkey, who invaded Cyprus in 1974 and is, until this day, keeping part of the island under its illegal military occupation, has been challenging the very existence of UNFICYP since its inception and even refuses to meet its financial obligations and pay its dues for the financing of this Force. On the contrary, confronted with the immediate threat posed by the occupying power and recognizing the need for the financing of UNFICYP, the Government of the Republic of Cyprus, as the host government, continues to provide voluntary contributions for the support of this Force.

The hardline positions of Turkey are indicative of its aggressive stance and prove in themselves the indispensable role of UNFICYP in ensuring the safety and security of all Cypriots, as well as in contributing to creating conditions that are conducive to resuming the



peace process, as reflected in the mandate of the Force, for a settlement based on a bicomunal, bizonal federation.

Cognizant of the technical nature of workings of the Fifth Committee, we refrain from elaborating further on the political issues raised in the remarks of the Turkish delegation, as they are rejected in toto by the content of the numerous UN resolutions on Cyprus and the biannual renewal of the mandate of UNFICYP adopted by the UN Security Council.

Before concluding, we would like to assure you, Mr. Chair, of my delegation's continued commitment to supporting you and your team throughout the session, drawing also on our experience as Fifth Committee Chair during the previous session.