



**STATEMENT BY THE REPUBLIC OF CYPRUS  
SIXTH COMMITTEE: OBSERVER STATUS OF THE COOPERATION COUNCIL OF  
TURKIC SPEAKING STATES IN THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY (AGENDA ITEM 168)**

Mr. Chairman, as this is the first time I am taking the floor, allow me to congratulate you on successfully steering the work of this committee so far in this session. I would also like to wish Mr. Hue Llewellyn well in his important new duties as Director of the Codification Division.

On the item under consideration to grant Observer Status to the Cooperation Council of Turkic Speaking States in the General Assembly, my delegation is obliged to reiterate its reservations to the request. As is well known, the criterion for the granting of observer status in the General Assembly to an intergovernmental organization is that their activities cover matters of interest to the General Assembly. As is evident from the Turkic Council's founding Declaration and the Declarations of its annual Summits since 2011, the Turkic Council includes in its sphere of interests a number of international issues, which are of interest to this General Assembly.

Regrettably, the most recently adopted, Astana Summit Declaration of September 2015 of the Turkic Council, does not ameliorate our concerns vis-à-vis the Council's pronouncements on matters that are of interest to the General Assembly, including specifically, the Cyprus problem.

The Turkic Council has consistently been adopting during its yearly Summits Declarations that include a paragraph on Cyprus with problematic references such as the "Turkish Cypriot people", "political equality of the two peoples in the island" "Turkish Cypriot people, an equal and constituent partner in Cyprus". The reference to "two peoples" does not reflect the fact that there is only one people in Cyprus, the Cypriot people, comprised of two communities, the Greek Cypriot and the Turkish Cypriot community. Moreover, the reference to "political equality of the two peoples in the island" runs contrary to the meaning given to political equality in Cyprus in UN SC Resolutions 716 (1991) and 774(1992). In particular the two resolutions refer to two politically equal communities not to "two politically equal peoples". In addition in the UN SC Resolutions, the reference to political equality is coupled with the framework for the solution to the Cyprus problem, that of a bizonal, bicomunal federation. It is noted that the framework for the solution has been agreed by the two communities in Cyprus and endorsed by the UN SC in several of its resolutions, most recently UN SC Resolution 2114(2013).

It is our conviction that an organisation which seeks observer status to the General Assembly ought to operate carefully and fully in line with the latter's body of resolutions and uphold them when pronouncing itself on a particular situation.

The Republic of Cyprus stands ready to continue engaging with the proponents of the request, in anticipation that substantial progress in addressing specific concerns expressed could be attained, which would in turn enable a positive outcome in a future consideration of this item.

(delivered by Ms V. Krasa)