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Question of Cyprus

**Oceans and the law of the sea: oceans and the
law of the sea**

**Letter dated 28 December 2024 from the Permanent
Representative of Türkiye to the United Nations addressed to the
Secretary-General**

I have the honour to transmit herewith a letter dated 28 December 2024, addressed to you by Mehmet Dâna, Representative of the Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus (see annex).

I would be grateful if the present letter and its annex could be circulated as a document of the General Assembly, under agenda items 40 and 75 (a), and of the Security Council.

(Signed) Ahmet **Yıldız**
Permanent Representative



Annex to the letter dated 28 December 2024 from the Permanent Representative of Türkiye to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

Upon instructions from my Government, I am writing to kindly convey the concerns of the Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus regarding a recent provocative action by the Greek Cypriot administration of Southern Cyprus in the eastern Mediterranean, namely the issuance of a navigational telex valid from 24 December 2024 to 24 February 2025 in relation to preparation works and drilling operations within the so-called “block 5” by the consortium of ExxonMobil and Qatar Energy. This action constitutes yet another blatant attempt to violate the Turkish Cypriot people’s inalienable and inherent rights to the natural resources in and around the island.

At the outset, I wish to underline the fact that unilateral and provocative Greek Cypriot policies vis-à-vis the matter are based on the false pretence that the Greek Cypriot administration of Southern Cyprus has the legal or moral right to represent or act on behalf of the entire island. This extends to unlawful acts by the Greek Cypriot administration, such as signing bilateral agreements on the delimitation of maritime borders, opening tenders and licensing energy companies to conduct exploration and exploitation activities. As is known, the Turkish Cypriot side has made written representations to the United Nations and put on record that these unilateral actions of the Greek Cypriot side, undertaken without the consent and joint decision of the Turkish Cypriot side, are totally unacceptable and not binding in any way on the Turkish Cypriot people.

At the core of the Cyprus problem and the matters pertaining to it, including oil/natural gas exploration and exploitation activities, stands the unlawful claim of the Greek Cypriot side to be the “government of the Republic of Cyprus”, the legitimacy of which ceased to exist when the Turkish Cypriot people were forcibly ejected from all its organs in 1963. As a matter of fact, there has not been a joint central administration capable of representing the entire island since 1963, but there exist two independent self-governing States on the island of Cyprus.

On the issue of hydrocarbon resources, the Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus has always maintained the view that cooperation, dialogue and diplomacy should be the preferred option over unilateral actions aimed at creating a fait accompli, so that an escalation of tensions in the region can be avoided. No doubt, cooperation between the two sides on a variety of issues, including hydrocarbon resources, would contribute to the prosperity and well-being of the two peoples on the island, as well as the stability and peace of the region. Needless to say, your oft-repeated call that the two sides should “cooperate to jointly exploit and benefit from common natural resources” (most recently in [S/2024/526](#), para. 40) continues to have the full support of the Turkish Cypriot side, which indeed has long been making the same call to the Greek Cypriot side.

Accordingly, in addition to our constructive proposals made to the Greek Cypriot side in 2011, 2012 and 2019, the Turkish Cypriot side made an updated proposal on 1 July 2022 as a fresh attempt to enable cooperation on hydrocarbons, which also included, inter alia, specific proposals for cooperation on other energy-related issues. Unfortunately, the Greek Cypriot administration to this day refuses the peaceful path of dialogue and cooperation with the Turkish Cypriot side. In the face of the persistent unilateral acts of the Greek Cypriot side, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus has made it known with its official statements, most recently on 28 December 2024, that our State would take equivalent

and reciprocal measures to protect the inherent and inalienable rights of the Turkish Cypriot people to the hydrocarbon resources in and around the island.

It must also be borne in mind that any regional cooperation or forum on this issue that excludes the Turkish Cypriot side and Türkiye is unrealistic, as well as counterproductive, and can serve no purpose other than to increase tensions in the eastern Mediterranean. In this regard, I would also like to reiterate that the Turkish Cypriot side, as the co-owner of hydrocarbon resources in and around the island, is ready to participate in an “eastern Mediterranean conference”, as proposed by Türkiye, which would take into account the legitimate rights and interests of all the relevant parties and stakeholders in the region.

I should be grateful if the present letter could be circulated as a document of the General Assembly, under agenda items 40 and 75 (a), and of the Security Council.

(Signed) Mehmet **Dânâ**
Representative
Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus
