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**General Assembly
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Agenda item 44
Question of Cyprus****Security Council
Seventy-sixth year****Letter dated 16 June 2021 from the Permanent Representative of
Turkey to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General**

I have the honour to transmit herewith a letter dated 16 June 2021 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 item 44, and of the Security Council.

(Signed) Feridun H. Sinirlioğlu
Permanent Representative



Annex to the letter dated 16 June 2021 from the Permanent Representative of Turkey to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

I am writing in response to the statement made by the Greek Cypriot representative during the plenary meeting of the General Assembly on 11 June 2021 regarding the report of the Security Council for 2020. Since the Greek Cypriot side has, once again, opted to exploit the absence of the Turkish Cypriot side in the United Nations organs to further its political agenda, I am obliged to respond in order to set the record straight.

Contrary to the claims of the Greek Cypriot representative, the Cyprus problem remains unresolved because of the categorical rejection of the Greek Cypriot side to share power and prosperity with the Turkish Cypriot people. Accordingly, it must not be forgotten in this regard that the 2004 Comprehensive Settlement of the Cyprus Problem (“the Annan Plan”) could not be realized owing to the resounding Greek Cypriot “no” vote, and the Conference on Cyprus, which took place in Crans-Montana, Switzerland, in July 2017 failed yet again owing to the intransigent stance of the Greek Cypriot leadership. In view of the foregoing, it is unfortunate that, instead of acting in line with your call that “this time it must be different”, the Greek Cypriot leadership showed no sign of flexibility or creativity during the recent informal five-plus-United Nations meeting, effectively preventing meaningful discussions on a new and realistic basis that could finally yield a positive outcome. As was put on record during that meeting, the Turkish Cypriot side is ready to negotiate a cooperative relationship based on two States with sovereign equality and believes that only negotiations that are on that new basis will bear fruit.

As regards the issue of the fenced area of Maraş/Varosha, one must not overlook the fact that, over the course of many decades, Maraş has become a major symbol of the status quo in Cyprus, and it is an undeniable fact that leaving Maraş closed in its current condition is in the interest of no one. It should be noted, in this regard, that the fenced area of Maraş is part of the territory of the Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus, where our Government has sole jurisdiction and authority. The work that is under way in this area, as well as the steps planned for the future, are in line with international law and are without prejudice to private property rights. This is a humanitarian act that will provide economic benefits to both Turkish Cypriots and Greek Cypriots and provide a unique area where Turkish Cypriots and Greek Cypriots, as well as other foreign nationals, can work together for mutual benefit, thus contributing to the building of trust and confidence. Creating such an example of a cooperative relationship will also be conducive to the efforts aimed at finding a freely negotiated settlement on the island.

I should be grateful if you would have the present letter circulated as a document of the General Assembly, under agenda item 44, and of the Security Council.

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