



Security Council

Distr.: General
27 January 2022

Resolution 2618 (2022)

Adopted by the Security Council at its 8956th meeting, on 27 January 2022

The Security Council,

Welcoming the report of the Secretary-General of 31 December 2021 on his Good Offices ([S/2021/1109](#)) and on the United Nations operation in Cyprus ([S/2021/1110](#)), and *expressing* its full support for his Good Offices, including the existing body of work, to remain available to assist the sides,

Underscoring that the responsibility for finding a solution lies first and foremost with the Cypriots themselves, and *reaffirming* the primary role of the United Nations in assisting the parties to bring the Cyprus conflict and division of the island to a comprehensive and durable settlement with a sense of urgency,

Welcoming the continuing personal engagement of the Secretary-General and that of his team, including his proposal for a United Nations envoy to lead further engagement which could provide critical support in the search for common ground with the goal of returning to formal negotiations as set out in his Good Offices report ([S/2021/1109](#)),

Expressing full support for the Secretary-General's ongoing efforts and *reiterating* the importance of openness, flexibility and compromise in finding common ground with the goal of returning to formal negotiations, and *urging* the sides to renew their efforts to achieve an enduring, comprehensive and just settlement based on a bicomunal, bizonal federation with political equality, as set out in relevant Security Council resolutions, including paragraph 4 of its resolution [716 \(1991\)](#),

Noting with regret the lack of progress made towards restarting formal negotiations at this time and *stressing* that the status quo is unsustainable, that the situation on the ground is not static, and that the lack of an agreement furthers political tensions and deepens the estrangement of both communities, risking irreversible changes on the ground, and reducing the prospects of a settlement,

Recalling its Presidential Statement ([S/PRST/2021/13](#)), and all relevant resolutions and statements of its President regarding Varosha,

Recalling its resolution [1325 \(2000\)](#) and all related resolutions, *recognising* that the full, equal and meaningful participation and leadership of women is essential in building peace in Cyprus and will contribute to making any future settlement sustainable, *welcoming* efforts to bring together a broader range of women actors on both sides and the joint action plan on ensuring women's participation in peace talks,



and *encouraging* the sides to ensure the needs and perspectives of women are addressed in a future settlement,

Recalling its resolution [2250 \(2015\)](#) and related resolutions that recognise the important and positive contribution of youth in efforts for the maintenance and promotion of peace and security, and as a key aspect of the sustainability, inclusiveness and success of peacekeeping and peacebuilding efforts, and *further encourages* the full, equal and meaningful participation of youth in this process,

Recalling the critical importance of full adherence to applicable international law in the handling of asylum seekers and refugees,

Recognising the ongoing efforts made by both communities to suppress the spread of COVID-19 and mitigate its effects, *welcoming* the cooperation between the sides on epidemiological issues, and *encouraging* further cooperation in this area, in particular initiatives to enable greater access to safe and effective COVID-19 vaccines, and echoing the Secretary-General's finding that COVID-19 has further widened the socio-economic disparity between the two Cypriot communities,

Expressing concern at the continued deterioration of the law and order situation in Pyla, *welcoming* the agreement in principle reached to establish an extension of the existing Joint Contact Room to Pyla, and *urging* both sides to continue to work with UNFICYP to establish effective measures to tackle criminal activities,

Reiterating the importance of confidence-building measures and their timely implementation, and *encouraging* the sides to consider new military confidence building measures,

Urging the sides to step up their efforts to promote intercommunal contacts, reconciliation and the active engagement of civil society, in particular women and youth, and *recognising* that regular, effective contact and communication between the sides enhances the prospects for settlement and is in the interests of all Cypriots, and helps to address island-wide matters, including migration, health, crime, environmental protection, and issues related to the adverse impacts of climate change,

Noting that the Government of Cyprus is agreed that in view of the prevailing conditions on the island it is necessary to keep the United Nations Peacekeeping Force in Cyprus (UNFICYP) beyond 31 January 2022,

Welcoming measures to date to strengthen the liaison and engagement capacity of the mission, *noting* the importance of transition planning in relation to the settlement and in line with resolution [2594 \(2021\)](#) and other relevant resolutions, and *emphasising* the need to review regularly all peacekeeping operations, including UNFICYP, to ensure efficiency and effectiveness,

Expressing appreciation to Member States that contribute personnel to UNFICYP, and *noting* the continued voluntary contributions to the funding of UNFICYP by the Government of Cyprus and the Government of Greece,

Noting with appreciation the efforts of the Secretary-General, and welcoming the appointment of Colin Stewart as Special Representative of the Secretary-General,

1. *Reaffirms* all its relevant resolutions on Cyprus, in particular resolution [1251 \(1999\)](#) and *recalls* the importance of achieving an enduring, comprehensive and just settlement based on a bicomunal, bizonal federation with political equality, as set out in relevant Security Council resolutions, including paragraph 4 of its resolution [716 \(1991\)](#);

2. *Fully supports* the Secretary-General's ongoing engagement with the sides and encourages further rounds of informal talks and *reiterates* the importance of the sides and all involved participants approaching this process in the spirit of openness,

flexibility and compromise and to show the necessary political will and commitment to freely negotiate a mutually acceptable settlement under United Nations auspices, and *urges* the sides to engage actively and with an increased sense of urgency with the Secretary-General and his team to this end, including by reaching an agreement regarding the proposal of the Secretary-General to appoint a United Nations envoy;

3. *Recalls* the status of Varosha as set out in relevant resolutions, including resolutions [550 \(1984\)](#) and [789 \(1992\)](#), and its Presidential Statement ([S/PRST/2021/13](#)) which condemns the 20 July 2021 announcement by Turkish and Turkish Cypriot leaders on the further reopening of a part of the fenced-off area of Varosha, expresses deep regret regarding unilateral actions that run contrary to its previous resolutions and statements on Varosha and calls for the immediate reversal of this course of action and of all steps taken on Varosha since October 2020, and *reiterates* that no actions should be carried out in relation to Varosha that are not in accordance with its resolutions and *continues to stress* the need to avoid any unilateral actions that could raise tensions on the island and undermine the prospects for a peaceful settlement;

4. *Expresses* concern at the continuing tensions in the Eastern Mediterranean, and underlines that disputes should be resolved peacefully in accordance with applicable international law, remains convinced of the many important benefits, including economic benefits, for all Cypriots and the wider region that would flow from a comprehensive and durable settlement, *reiterates* the Secretary-General's previous call to avoid escalatory steps, and further *calls* upon the leaders of the two Cypriot communities and all involved parties to refrain from any actions and rhetoric that might damage the settlement process and that could raise tensions on the island;

5. *Recalls* its resolution [2587 \(2021\)](#) and calls upon the two leaders urgently to:

(a) reinvigorate their efforts to provide the necessary support and overall guidance to free the Technical Committees from political obstructions in their work and enable them to function effectively in coordination and cooperation on matters which have island-wide implications, including through the effective use of the expertise available in the bicomunal Technical Committees on Health, Criminal Matters, Crisis Management, Humanitarian Affairs and Economic Matters, and to empower them to submit proposals for their consideration to enhance intercommunal contacts and improve the daily lives of all Cypriots, and consider the advice of the Good Offices Mission of the Secretary-General regarding further ways to empower the Technical Committees and improve their performance;

(b) ensure effective coordination and cooperation on criminal matters;

(c) intensify efforts to promote peace education across the island, including by further empowering the Technical Committee on Education to implement the recommendations contained in its joint report of 2017, in particular those concerning policy-making, and to address impediments to peace by conducting a joint review of school materials, including text books, as a contribution to trust-building between the communities, on which there continues to be no progress;

(d) improve the public atmosphere for negotiation to secure a settlement, including by preparing the communities for a settlement through public messages on the way ahead, and delivering more constructive and harmonised messages, including by more explicitly encouraging contact and cooperation between the communities and providing direct support to grassroots people-to-people initiatives, and by refraining from actions or rhetoric that detracts from a successful process or could make it more difficult to achieve;

(e) increase their support to, and ensure a meaningful role for, civil society engagement in peace efforts, in particular strengthening the participation of women's

organisations and youth in the process, and to support implementation of the recommendations of the gender sensitive socioeconomic impact assessment to address existing barriers and ensure a future peace agreement can more equally benefit men and women in Cyprus;

6. *Regrets* the ongoing lack of meaningful participation of women's organisations and youth in the Settlement process, *welcomes* the Technical Committee on Gender Equality's convergence on a set of practical recommendations to ensure women's full, equal and meaningful participation in the settlement process, to support and encourage engagement with civil society, including women's organisations, and to include a gender perspective in a future settlement process and *urges* the leaders of both sides to ensure thorough and effective implementation of all recommendations under the joint action plan on women's participation, and to empower the Technical Committee on Gender Equality to carry out recommendations pertaining to the Committee and to review implementation of the plan every six months and provide recommendations as appropriate, and continues to *note* the Secretary-General's call to ensure the inclusion of at least 30 per cent women in future delegations;

7. *Deeply regrets* the lack of progress on an effective mechanism for direct military contacts between the sides and the relevant involved parties, and *urges* flexibility and engagement by the sides and the relevant involved parties, facilitated by UNFICYP, to develop a suitably acceptable proposal on the establishment of such a mechanism, and its timely implementation;

8. *Calls* upon the sides to reduce existing barriers to intercommunal contact, emphasizes the importance of effective communication for risk-mitigation and trust-building between the communities, and in this regard *welcomes* the continuation of the regular dialogue between the sides and the United Nations, *urges* the sides to agree and implement further confidence building measures that can contribute to a conducive environment for settlement, including those related to the military, economic cooperation and trade, and including through the work of the Technical Committees, and in this regard *welcomes* the proposal of the Secretary-General for a dialogue between the parties and the Special Representative to explore a possible agreement on surveillance technology and unmanning of positions adjacent to the buffer zone;

9. *Commends* the ongoing work of the Committee on Missing Persons, and *calls upon* all parties to enhance their cooperation with the Committee's work, in particular through providing full access without delay to all areas and responding in a timely manner to requests for archival information on possible burial sites;

10. *Expresses* its full support for UNFICYP, and *decides* to extend its mandate for a further period ending on 31 July 2022;

11. *Expresses serious concern* at the continued violations of the military status quo along the ceasefire lines, the reported encroachment by both sides into the Buffer Zone and the risks associated, the challenges to the mission's delineation of the buffer zone and the increase in unauthorised construction as outlined in paragraphs 11, 14, 15 and 18 of the Secretary-General's report (S/2021/1110) which poses challenges to UNFICYP's operations and mandated authority;

12. *Strongly urges* the sides and all involved parties to respect UNFICYP's mandated authority in, and delineation of, the buffer zone, *reaffirms* the importance of the use of the 2018 United Nations aide-memoire by the sides to ensure peace and security in the buffer zone, continues to *request* the Secretary-General to report to the Security Council and troop- and police-contributing countries any actions that impede UNFICYP's ability to fulfil its mandate, and renews its *call on* both sides to respect the integrity of the buffer zone, to remove all unauthorised constructions and to prevent unauthorised military or civilian activities within and along the ceasefire lines;

13. *Stresses* that UNFICYP's mandated authority extends throughout Cyprus and *reaffirms* the importance of respect for UNFICYP's freedom of movement throughout Cyprus, including to ensure systematic and effective monitoring and reporting by the mission particularly on the situation in Varosha, as well as elsewhere, *stresses* that restrictions on freedom of movement can present risks to the safety and security of United Nations personnel serving in peacekeeping operations, and *requests* the Secretary-General, Member States and all parties to continue to take all appropriate measures to ensure the safety and security and freedom of movement of UNFICYP personnel with unhindered and immediate access, in line with resolution [2518 \(2020\)](#);

14. *Reiterates its calls* on the Turkish Cypriot side and Turkish forces to restore in Strovilia the military status quo which existed there prior to 30 June 2000, and reaffirms that UNFICYP's freedom of movement should be respected;

15. *Urges* the leaders of both communities to agree and continue a plan of work to achieve a mine-free Cyprus, and to overcome the existing barriers to this work as outlined in paragraph 21 of the Secretary-General's report ([S/2021/1110](#)), in order to make expeditious progress towards clearing the 29 remaining suspected hazardous areas on the island;

16. *Requests* the Secretary-General to implement the following activities and existing obligations in the planning and conduct of UNFICYP's operations within the limits of the mandate and area of operations and in line with existing United Nations guidelines and regulations:

(a) women, peace and security requirements under resolution [1325 \(2000\)](#) and all resolutions addressing women, peace, and security, including by seeking to increase the number of women in UNFICYP in line with resolution [2538 \(2020\)](#), including through ensuring the full, equal, and meaningful participation of women at all levels, and in all aspects of its operations including senior leadership positions, and through ensuring safe, enabling and gender-sensitive working environments for women in peacekeeping operations, as well as taking fully into account gender considerations as a crosscutting issue throughout its mandate, and reaffirming the importance of sufficient gender expertise in all mission components and capacity strengthening in executing the mission mandate in a gender-responsive manner;

(b) peacekeeping performance requirements under resolutions [2378 \(2017\)](#) and [2436 \(2018\)](#);

(c) the United Nations zero-tolerance policy on serious misconduct, sexual exploitation and abuse, and sexual harassment, and all actions under resolution [2272 \(2016\)](#), and to report to the Security Council if such cases of misconduct occur;

(d) implementing more effective casualty and medical evacuation procedures, as well as deploying enhanced medical evacuation capacities;

(e) taking active and effective measures to improve the planning and functioning of UNFICYP's safety and security facilities and arrangements;

(f) youth, peace and security requirements under resolutions [2250 \(2015\)](#), [2419 \(2018\)](#) and [2535 \(2020\)](#);

17. *Urges* troop- and police-contributing countries to continue taking appropriate action to prevent sexual exploitation and abuse, including vetting, predeployment and in-mission awareness training for all personnel, to ensure full accountability in cases of such conduct involving their personnel, including through timely investigations of all allegations of sexual exploitation and abuse, to repatriate units when there is credible evidence of widespread or systemic sexual exploitation

and abuse by those units, to take appropriate disciplinary measures, and to report to the United Nations fully and promptly on actions undertaken;

18. *Requests* troop- and police-contributing countries to implement relevant provisions of resolution [2538 \(2020\)](#) and all other relevant resolutions on reducing barriers to and increasing women's participation at all levels and in all positions in peacekeeping, including by ensuring safe, enabling and gender-sensitive working environments for women in peacekeeping operations;

19. *Requests* the Secretary-General to submit by 5 July 2022 a report on his Good Offices, in particular on progress towards reaching a consensus starting point for meaningful results-oriented negotiations leading to a settlement, *encourages* the leaders of the two communities to provide written updates to the Good Offices Mission of the Secretary-General on the actions they have taken in support of the relevant parts of this resolution since its adoption, in particular with regard to paragraphs 5, 6, 7 and 8, with a view to reaching a sustainable and comprehensive settlement, and *further requests* the Secretary-General to include the contents of these updates in his Good Offices report; *further requests* the Secretary-General to submit by 5 July 2022 a report on implementation of this resolution that provides integrated, evidence-based and data-driven analysis, strategic assessments and frank advice to the Security Council, drawing on data collected and analysed through the Comprehensive Planning and Performance Assessment System (CPAS), the mission's implementation of the Integrated Peacekeeping Performance and Accountability Framework (IPPAF) and other strategic planning and performance measurement tools to describe the mission's impact and overall mission performance, including information on undeclared caveats, declining to participate in or undertake patrols and their impact on the mission, and how the reported cases of under-performance are addressed, and to keep the Security Council updated on events as necessary;

20. *Decides* to remain seized of the matter.
