



Security Council

Distr.: General
29 July 2021

Resolution 2587 (2021)

Adopted by the Security Council at its 8827th meeting, on 29 July 2021

The Security Council,

Welcoming the report of the Secretary-General of 9 July 2021 on his Good Offices [S/2021/634](#) and on the United Nations operation in Cyprus ([S/2021/635](#)), 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 work of the Secretary-General and that of his team in convening the informal “five plus UN” meeting between the leaders of the two Cypriot Communities and the Guarantor Powers in Geneva on 27–29 April, and *noting* with regret that sufficient common ground could not be found at the meeting to allow for the resumption of formal negotiations at this time,

Expressing full support for the Secretary-General’s ongoing efforts and *noting* 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 \(1991\)](#),

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,

Noting the easing of tensions in the eastern Mediterranean over hydrocarbons exploration, remaining 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, and *reiterating* the Secretary-General’s previous call to avoid escalatory steps,

Recalling its Presidential Statement ([S/PRST/2021/13](#)), which condemns the 20 July announcement by Turkish and Turkish Cypriot leaders on the issue of Varosha, and calls for the immediate reversal of this course of action and the reversal



of all steps taken on Varosha since October 2020, *reaffirming* the status of Varosha as set out in its previous resolutions, and *reiterating* that no actions should be carried out in relation to Varosha that are not in accordance with those resolutions, and *stressing* the need to avoid any unilateral actions that could trigger tensions on the island and undermine the prospects for a peaceful settlement,

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, *acknowledging* the gender-sensitive socioeconomic impact assessment that was launched on 17 February 2020, and looking forward to the full and swift implementations of its recommendations, *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,

Recognising the ongoing efforts made by both communities to suppress the spread of COVID-19 and mitigate its effects, regretting the impact that the largely uncoordinated responses to the COVID-19 pandemic have had on bi-communal engagement, welcoming the reopening of all crossing points and encouraging the return to the status of the crossings as at 29 February 2020,

Expressing concern at the continued deterioration of the law and order situation in 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 July 2021,

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 *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, his Special Representative Elizabeth Spehar, and senior United Nations official Jane Holl Lute,

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 and the agreement by the parties to convene a further round of informal talks in the near future, and reiterates the importance of the sides and all involved participants approaching these talks 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;

3. *Notes* the easing of tensions in the Eastern Mediterranean, and underlines that disputes should be resolved peacefully in accordance with applicable international law, 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;

4. *Recalls* its resolution 2561 (2021) and *calls upon* the two leaders urgently to:

(a) provide the necessary political support and overall guidance to free the Technical Committees from obstructions in their work and enable them to function effectively, 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) engage the Technical Committees more actively to ensure effective 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;

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

(d) 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;

(e) 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;

(f) 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;

5. *Regrets* the ongoing lack of meaningful participation of women's organisations and youth in the Settlement process, *calls on* the leaders of both sides to submit to the Secretary-General by 15 December 2021 an action plan, in

coordination with the Technical Committee on Gender Equality, to increase women's full, equal and meaningful participation in peace talks and to provide direct support and encouragement to civil society organisations to enhance inter-communal contact and trust-building, and *requests* the Secretary-General to include this action plan in his next Good Offices report, and *notes* the Secretary-General's call to ensure the inclusion of at least 30 per cent women in future delegations and *urges* the parties to explore ways to ensure women's full, equal and meaningful participation and the inclusion of gender considerations in a possible resumed negotiation process;

6. *Regrets* the lack of progress on an effective mechanism for direct military contacts between the sides and the relevant involved parties, and *urges* 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;

7. *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 *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;

8. *Welcomes* the establishment of a dialogue between the sides and the UN resulting in the reopening of the crossing points on 4 June, and *calls on* the leaders to continue cooperation in this vein and to return the crossing points to the operating status that existed prior to 29 February 2020, and noting that the opening of the crossings since 2003 has been an important confidence-building measure between both communities and one which is essential for the settlement process;

9. *Commends* the ongoing work of the Committee on Missing Persons, and *calls upon* all parties to continue 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 January 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, and the increase in unauthorised construction as outlined in paragraphs 12 to 17 of the Secretary-General's report which poses challenges to UNFICYP's operations and mandated authority;

12. *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, *requests* the Secretary-General to report to the Security Council and troop-contributing countries any actions that impede UNFICYP's ability to fulfil its mandate, and *calls 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, and *urges* both sides to take all appropriate measures to ensure the safety and security of UNFICYP personnel;

13. *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;

14. *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 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 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, in order to make expeditious progress towards clearing the 29 remaining suspected hazardous areas on the island;

16. *Requests* UNFICYP to take fully into account gender considerations as a cross-cutting issue throughout its mandate; *requests* the Secretary-General and troop- and police-contributing countries to increase the number of women in UNFICYP and ensure the full, equal and meaningful participation of uniformed and civilian women at all levels, and in all aspects of its operations including senior leadership positions, and to implement other relevant provisions of resolution [2538 \(2020\)](#);

17. *Welcomes* the initiatives undertaken by the Secretary-General to standardise a culture of performance in UN peacekeeping, *recalls* its requests in its resolutions [2378 \(2017\)](#) and [2436 \(2018\)](#) that the Secretary-General ensure that performance data related to the effectiveness of peacekeeping operations is used to improve mission operations, including decisions such as those regarding deployment, remediation, repatriation and incentives, *reaffirms* its support for the development of a comprehensive and integrated performance policy framework that identifies clear standards of performance for evaluating all United Nations civilian and uniformed personnel working in and supporting peacekeeping operations that facilitates effective and full implementation of mandates, and includes comprehensive and objective methodologies based on clear and well-defined benchmarks to ensure accountability for underperformance and incentives and recognition for outstanding performance, *calls on* the United Nations to apply this framework to UNFICYP as described in its resolution [2436 \(2018\)](#), and *notes* the efforts of the Secretary-General to develop a comprehensive performance assessment system;

18. *Requests* the Secretary-General to continue to take necessary measures to ensure full compliance of all UNFICYP personnel, civilian and uniformed, including mission leadership and mission support personnel, with the United Nations zero-tolerance policy on sexual exploitation and abuse and to keep the Council fully informed about the Mission's progress in this regard, including by reporting on the start, agreed deadlines, and outcomes of UNSCR 2272 reviews, *stresses* the need to prevent such exploitation and abuse and to improve how these allegations are addressed in line with its resolution [2272 \(2016\)](#), and *urges* troop- and police-contributing countries to continue to take appropriate preventative action, including vetting of all personnel, pre-deployment and in-mission awareness training, and to take appropriate steps to ensure full accountability in cases of such conduct involving their personnel, including through timely investigations of allegations by troop- and police-contributing countries, and UNFICYP as appropriate, holding perpetrators to account, and repatriating units when there is credible evidence of widespread or systemic sexual exploitation and abuse by those units;

19. *Requests* the Secretary-General to submit by 3 January 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 6 and 7 and 9, 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 3 January 2022 a report on implementation of this resolution, drawing on analysis produced through the Comprehensive Performance Assessment System covering all components of the mission, and to keep the Security Council updated on events as necessary;

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