



***Agenda Item Number: 4.a***

***Agenda Item Title: Reports***

***Title of paper/report: Report of the Republic of Cyprus***

***Statement/intervention provided by:***

Mr Andreas Hadjiraftis, President of the Permanent Committee for the Standardization of Geographical Names of Cyprus, Head of Delegation of the Republic of Cyprus to the Third Session of the United Nations Group of Experts on Geographical Names (UNGEGN), 2023.

***Statement/intervention:***

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Mr. Chair,

Distinguished delegates,

I am taking the floor in response to the statement made by the distinguished delegate of Türkiye. At the outset, let me once again call on the Turkish delegation to respect the names of its fellow UN Member States. We demand that as a full member of this forum, our proper name be used.

Furthermore, we wish to make the following remarks:

The international community has no doubts about the sovereignty of the Republic of Cyprus, and the fact that this sovereignty extends over the whole island. A significant part of the territory of Cyprus remains occupied since 1974 and the illegal entity which was established by Türkiye was immediately condemned by the Security Council through its Resolutions 545 (1983) and 550 (1984). The Turkish military occupied part of Cyprus will always remain an integral part of the Republic of Cyprus. To this extend, the statement made by the Turkish delegation is false in substance and unacceptable.

We call on the Turkish delegation to respect the technical character of the UN Session of UNGEGN for the Standardization of Geographical Names, and refrain from any attempts to politicize its works and discussions. We also call on Türkiye to respect the sovereignty, unity, independence, and territorial integrity of the Republic of Cyprus, and to stand by the United Nations Charter.

The reference given by the Turkish delegation regarding document GEGN.2/2023/5/CRP.5 is not relevant to Agenda Item 4(a). As a matter of fact, the sole aspect of the Cyprus problem which is relevant in the context of our work is that Türkiye has illegally and arbitrarily changed over 35,000 geographical names in the occupied area of Cyprus attempting to erase its historical identity and millennia-old character and heritage.



It should also be reminded that thousands of Greek Cypriot properties in the northern occupied part of Cyprus are currently being illegally exploited, in violation of the owners' rights and without their consent. The owners of these properties were forcibly displaced in 1974, as a consequence of the Turkish invasion and subsequent occupation.

In addition, Cyprus rejects the content of the Turkish presidential decree no. 6188, dated 7<sup>th</sup> of October 2022, which is included in the Turkish Report under item 4(a) of the agenda. The decree includes an inaccurate and unacceptable geospatial map of Cyprus with several wrongly and illegally depicted geographical names in the terrestrial area and maritime zones of Cyprus. We would like to reiterate that the Government of the Republic of Cyprus remains the sole pertinent and legitimate authority to make any decisions as regards the use of these geographical names.

Finally, Mr. Chair, I kindly request that this statement be reflected in the official records of this session.

I thank you.

Submitted on:

May 1, 2023

**STATEMENT/INTERVENTION**