



Agenda Item Number: 4.a

Agenda Item Title: Reports

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

Statement/intervention provided by:

Response 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 Second Session of the United Nations Group of Experts on Geographical Names (UNGEGN), 2021.

Statement/intervention:

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Mr/Madam Chair,

I regret that I have to submit this statement in response to the statement made by the distinguished delegate of Turkey. I wish to put the following on record:

The international community has no doubts about the sovereignty of the Republic of Cyprus, and the fact that this sovereignty extends over the whole of Cyprus. This is why the international community recognizes only the Republic of Cyprus as a subject of international law and why Cyprus' sole legitimate government is representing the country internationally.

The Turkish claim that the Republic of Cyprus does not represent Cyprus as a whole has been unequivocally, authoritatively and definitively rejected by the pre-eminent organ responsible for the maintenance of international peace and security in several of its mandatory resolutions. The United Nations Security Council deplored the purported secession of part of the Republic of Cyprus, rendered legally invalid the declaration which purports to create an independent state in the northern part of Cyprus, called upon all States to respect the sovereignty, independence and territorial integrity of the Republic of Cyprus, and called upon all States not to recognize any Cypriot State other than the Republic of Cyprus.

Any attempts to establish a secessionist entity in Cyprus' territory do not affect the status of the Republic of Cyprus in the international legal order pursuant to established rules and norms of international law. Equally, no effect can be created by any statements in support of such attempts.

I urge the Turkish delegation to respect the technical character of the UN Session of UNGEGN for the Standardization of Geographical Names, and refrain from attempts to politicize it. The reference given by the Turkish delegation regarding document GEGN.2/2021/9/CRP.9 is not relevant to Agenda Item 4(a). The sole aspect of the Cyprus problem which is relevant in the context of our work here is the fact that Turkey has illegally and arbitrarily changed over 35,000 geographical names in the area of Cyprus that it occupies, in an attempt to erase its historical identity and millennia-old character and heritage.



It is also noted that, Greek Cypriot properties in the northern occupied part of the island, are currently being illegally exploited, in violation of the owners' rights and without their consent. The displaced persons were forced to flee their properties in 1974, due to the Turkish invasion, and subsequent occupation, and are still deprived of their right to return.

For the above reasons, the statement of Turkey should be ignored, as it includes inappropriate information.

Furthermore, I would like to refer to the contents of the National Report of Turkey (GEGN.2/2021/CRP.107), and specifically to Section 2: Country Names and Capitals, List of Countries and their Capitals. Unfortunately this list, among others, lists the so called "*Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus*", as an "official country name". Furthermore, the list does not include the Republic of Cyprus, which is the only legitimate Government in Cyprus, recognized by the international community.

This list of Countries and their Capitals prepared by Turkey should be totally ignored, as it includes false information.

Submitted on:

4/26/2021

STATEMENT/INTERVENTION