

Statement by the Republic of Türkiye regarding the “First Biennial Transparency Report” of the Greek Cypriot side

Türkiye would like to express its views concerning certain allegations about Türkiye and the situation in the Island of Cyprus, raised in the First Biennial Transparency Report of the Greek Cypriot administration thereby emphasizing certain facts already well-known by the international community.

The Republic of Cyprus was established in 1960 on the basis of a partnership between the two peoples of the Island, through international treaties concluded between the Turkish Cypriots and Greek Cypriots as well as the guarantor powers Türkiye, Greece and the United Kingdom.

This state of affairs and its legitimacy has ceased to exist as such after the constitution of the 1960 partnership state was unilaterally violated in 1963 by the Greek Cypriot side, through the use of force and the ousting of Turkish Cypriots from state mechanisms, not through voluntary withdrawal of the Turkish Cypriots. Since December 1963, there has not been a joint authority or administration which is in law or in fact entitled to represent jointly the two peoples of Cyprus, namely the Turkish Cypriots and the Greek Cypriots, and consequently Cyprus as a whole.

In this regard, the Cyprus problem is not an issue of “invasion” or “occupation”. The division of the Island began in 1963 (much earlier than 1974) when the Greek Cypriots expelled the Turkish Cypriots from the partnership state organs and institutions as well as from their homes, in violation of the Treaties of 1960 and all human rights norms. When this culminated with a coup d’état carried out by the Greek junta in 1974 aiming at annexing the Island to Greece, Türkiye was left with no other option but to exercise its Treaty rights. Since then, Turkish forces have been the only factor preventing the repetition of earlier tragedies.

Therefore, the allegation of occupation is not compatible with the facts in Cyprus, the 1960 Treaties and the nature and contents of the UN comprehensive settlement process. The existence of the Turkish forces on the Island stems from 1960 international treaties, within the framework of Türkiye’s rights and obligations as a guarantor power. The only occupation on the Island is the ongoing occupation of the partnership state established in 1960 by the Greek Cypriots.

Türkiye supports a fair, lasting, sustainable and mutually acceptable settlement on the Island based on the realities on the ground and maintains that only a negotiated settlement based on dialogue and diplomacy can be sustainable. There are two peoples and two states on the Island. Therefore, Türkiye believes that first and foremost, the sovereign equality and equal international status of Turkish Cypriot people should be reaffirmed. Following this reaffirmation of the Turkish Cypriots’ inherent rights, the two equal States on the island can start negotiating with equal status. The recognition of the Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus is vital to overcome the deadlock in the Cyprus issue. Such a solution has the potential to contribute to peace, prosperity and stability in Cyprus as well as in the Eastern Mediterranean region as a whole.

In the light of this legal and political situation, we reject the misleading allegations in the said report concerning Türkiye and the situation in the Island.