

**STATEMENT BY TURKEY DURING THE SECOND PART OF THE
RESUMED SESSION OF THE 5TH COMMITTEE
(7 May 2014, Wednesday)**

Thank you Mr. Chair,

My delegation commends the valuable work of the Fifth Committee on the United Nations Peacekeeping Forces' budgets. I also thank the Secretariat and ACABQ for the introductions.

We have read carefully the relevant reports by the Secretariat on the budget performance of UNFICYP from 1 July 2012 to 30 June 2013, and on the proposed budget for UNFICYP for the period from 1 July 2014 to 30 June 2015. We also examined in detail the report of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions on the two aforementioned reports of the Secretariat. I would like to share some of our observations on several specific points in the reports, which should not be regarded as exhaustive.

Let me begin with the expected accomplishment section 1.2 of the report of the Secretariat on the budget performance of UNFICYP which lists the increase in the number of residential construction among the planned indicators of achievement for the progress towards living conditions. Unlike mere agricultural projects which do not have long term consequences, the permanent nature of residential and commercial buildings threaten the status quo in the buffer zone. Therefore, commercial and residential construction in the buffer zone shouldn't be considered as an indicator for progress towards normal living conditions in the buffer zone.

We understand from the same report that 131 humanitarian visits took place to the Greek Cypriot and Maronite communities in the north, while only six such visits were conducted to address the humanitarian issues affecting Turkish Cypriots in the south. That must be one of the reasons why longstanding issues faced by Turkish Cypriots residing in the south, such as the lack of a Turkish language school in Limassol, remains unresolved.

Mr. Chair,

Let's now turn to the report of the Secretariat on the proposed budget for UNFICYP. The 6th paragraph of the said report states that "UNFICYP will continue to take measures against the unauthorized use of the buffer zone". In this context, I have to remind you that no measures have been taken so far vis-à-vis the issue of the

unauthorized construction of a university campus in the bi-communal village of Pile/Pyla which is situated in the buffer zone under the control of UNFICYP. As clearly noted in the relevant paragraphs (paras.15 and 35) of the Secretary-General's report on UNFICYP dated 7 January 2013 (S/2013/7), the "unauthorized" construction "threatens to create a fait accompli on the ground" and "threatens the delicate demographic balance in the village". It should be borne in mind that the Turkish Cypriot side has never consented to, nor supported the construction of the said university campus but, on the contrary, has strongly opposed and protested this unilateral action of the Greek Cypriot side, which is challenging the status quo in the UN controlled buffer zone. Given the fact that the buffer zone is controlled by the UN force, how did such a construction of this magnitude take place without the consent of the Turkish Cypriot leadership and how come this university is still operational despite the fact that it is unauthorized?

The 10th paragraph of the said report mentions that the proposed budget provides for the implementation of a Force-wide programme to upgrade the fire safety standards of the Force in accordance with those of the host country. Past firefighting experience on the island shows that incidents of fires in the buffer zone require collaborative efforts of both sides with the UN. The reference in the paragraph does not reflect the realities on the ground. There is already a bi-communal Technical Committee addressing this issue that can be a model for the possible cooperation in this area.

Mr. Chair,

50 years have already passed since the deployment of UNFICYP. I would appreciate if the Secretariat can inform whether a review of the mandate of UNFICYP is envisaged?

Finally Mr. Chair, I wish to raise an issue that I brought to the attention of the 5th Committee last year. We would like to know total number of Turkish Cypriots and Greek Cypriots hired as local staff by UNFICYP. We are aware that there is a huge discrepancy in the ratio of Turkish Cypriots and Greek Cypriots employed by UNFICYP. I would also like to know what remedies UNFICYP is considering to correct this discrepancy.

UNFICYP can discharge its duties successfully only if it treats and cooperates with both sides on the island on an equal footing.

We would be glad to hear explanations from the Secretariat on the issues I have raised.