75ᵗʰ SESSION OF THE UNITED NATIONS GENERAL ASSEMBLY
STATEMENT BY THE DELEGATION OF THE REPUBLIC OF CYPRUS
IN THE FIFTH COMMITTEE ON AGENDA ITEM 141: PROPOSED PROGRAMME BUDGET
2021– SPECIAL POLITICAL MISSIONS
NEW YORK, 18 NOVEMBER 2020

Thank you, Mr. Chairman,

I very much regret that I am compelled to take the floor in order to exercise the right of reply, but the statement made by Turkey during last Friday's discussions on the budget of special political missions – including the Office of the Special Adviser to the Secretary General on Cyprus – leave me with no other option.

The said statement, along with similar remarks made thereafter in the informal meeting, are objectionable on grounds of substance, as well as relevance in the context of the Fifth Committee, whose deliberations ought to remain purely technical.

I wish to remind that the Good Offices Mission of the Secretary General in Cyprus was entrusted to him by the Security Council and is a mandate that no other body can challenge. Attempts to challenge this mandate, in this Committee, by a member of the Bureau no less, can only be perceived as an attempt to undermine the core objective of this organization which is the peaceful settlement of disputes.

In terms of substance, in lieu of a long response whose nature would not be compatible with the object, purpose or material competence of this Committee, I will limit myself to stating that the remarks of the Turkish delegation are rejected in toto, also by the numerous resolutions on Cyprus of the UNSC and the UNGA, the content of which the Turkish remarks contradict fully. The UN acquis regarding the reunification of Cyprus emanates from the relevant resolutions of the United Nations, which cannot be unilaterally challenged by whoever finds them inconvenient.

Before concluding, I would like to assure you, Mr. Chairman, of my delegation's continued commitment to supporting you and your team throughout the session, drawing also on our experience as Fifth Committee Chair during the previous session.