

**Statement by Mr Michael Mavros**  
**Second Counsellor, Delegation of the Republic of Cyprus to the United Nations**  
**at the 73rd Session of the UN General Assembly, 4<sup>th</sup> Committee**  
**Item 56 – Comprehensive Review of the whole question of peacekeeping operations in all**  
**their aspects**

**United Nations New York**  
**1 November 2018**

Thank you Mr Chair,

Cyprus aligns itself with the statement of the European Union and would like to add the following in its national capacity.

Cyprus unequivocally supports the review of peacekeeping operations in order to enable them to become more effective and efficient in responding to contemporary challenges and able to fulfill their mandate as prescribed by the Security Council.

Cyprus has, therefore, expressed its support to the “Declaration of Shared Commitments” and to the Secretary General’s vision for reforming the peace and security pillar with the aim of improving the United Nations peacekeeping operations’ ability to deliver on their mandates with a stronger focus on performance.

As a host country of a peacekeeping operation since 1964, we are deeply indebted to the United Nations, to all the United Nations member states for their invaluable contributions, their active involvement and their steadfast support. UNFICYP is a successful model of a UN operation, with exemplary performance in exercising its preventive and deterrent tasks, preventing a recurrence of fighting, contributing to the maintenance of law and order and a return to normalcy, preserving stability, de-escalating tension, promoting and facilitating bi-communal activities, undertaking humanitarian activities and, most importantly, underpinning an atmosphere that is conducive to the political peacemaking process.

I would also like to recall that UNFICYP has been a pioneer in implementing new policies, including on strengthening women's participation in peacekeeping, having appointed in 2014 the first woman to serve as Force Commander in a United Nations peacekeeping operation.

While we understand that the size of the peacekeeping budget forces us to review peacekeeping operations, rationalize costs, develop a performance culture, and ensure that all funds and resources are spent prudently, it is important to underline that the particularities of each conflict and each peacekeeping operation should always be taken into account. The performance of the peacekeeping operations cannot be jeopardized by undue weakening or early withdrawal, where the situation on the ground does not warrant such a course of action.

UNFICYP is already a "lean" peacekeeping operation whose limited strength poses challenges in the execution of its functions. It has undergone repeated reviews, the recommendations of which have fully implemented.

I would like, therefore, to reiterate that, in view of the prevailing conditions in Cyprus that remain unchanged since 1974, it is crucial to retain the presence of UNFICYP, in its current mandate and configuration, until a settlement has been reached.

In this regard, we express our satisfaction for the decision of the SG to instruct Ms. Jane Holl Lute to continue discussions and the unanimous support of the Security Council to the efforts under way. Our side will continue to engage constructively in the efforts to revive the negotiating process and reach a lasting solution of the Cyprus issue.

Thank you Mr Chair.