

**Your Excellency,**

**President Nikos Christodoulides,**

**President of the Republic of Cyprus,**

Allow me at the outset to extend the highest cordial greetings of His Majesty King Abdullah II Ibin Al Hussein of the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan. Further best wishes are extended to your Excellency and the Cypriot people on the occasion of the 63<sup>rd</sup> anniversary of Cyprus Independence day.

I am particularly honoured to present to your Excellency today the letters of Credence by which His Majesty King Abdullah II Ibn Al Hussein of the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan accredits me as Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan to the Republic of Cyprus. Relevantly, I am presenting the letters of recall of my predecessor.

**Your Excellency,**

Our bilateral relations have maintained steady progress, and are always at a point where more can be done to build on what has been flourishing consistently since the establishment of our diplomatic relations in 1962. We have exchanged Ambassadors and initiated political consultations mechanism. Furthermore, Jordan and Cyprus reached over two dozen agreements and MoUs, covering a broad range of areas. The future looks very promising as regards the bilateral trade and investments. Tourism figures are at a rise in numbers in both directions, as flights continue to operate daily between our two countries.

Jordan and Cyprus are also linked to several regional cooperation mechanisms such as the Trilateral Cooperation Mechanism with Greece, the East Mediterranean Gas Forum (EMGF), and the Union for the Mediterranean (UfM).

**Mr President,**

In your visit to Jordan last August as the President of the Republic of Cyprus, His Majesty the King expressed pride in the deep-rooted relations between our two countries, highlighting that: “meeting Your Excellency is always a chance to enhance cooperation, politically and economically as well as in defence.”

Your Excellency’s important visit, accompanied by Minister of Foreign Affairs, Minister of Energy, Commerce and Industry, the Government Spokesman, and other respected officials, culminated the signing of three MoUs covering as diverse fields as Development Cooperation, Investment and firefighting. Two more MoUs

are in the works and just before Your Excellency's visit the SOFA agreement came into effect.

As a matter of fact, the MoU relating to the firefighting came into test almost immediately during the unfortunate wildfires that swept through the mountainous region of Limassol (2-8/8/2023), the blaze was battled with the participation of the Royal Jordanian Air Force. As Your Excellency is fully aware, our countries jointly addressed HR/VP Josep Borrel with a goal to establish a Regional firefighting Station in Cyprus.

**Mr President,**

On the Cyprus question, allow me to reiterate Jordan's position of supporting a just, comprehensive and viable settlement, in line with relevant United Nations resolutions and international law. We also support the indispensable role of the UN peacekeeping Force in Cyprus (UNFICYP) in ensuring peace and stability. Jordan further commends all efforts exerted by Your Excellency, and the by Government of the Republic of Cyprus meant to reach a solution leading to the reunification of the island and safeguarding Cyprus's independence, sovereignty and territorial integrity. The intended comprehensive settlement will not only benefit the people of Cyprus but also the whole region.

Furthermore, allow me, Excellency, to underline Jordan's position in Favour of the respect of sovereignty, sovereign right and jurisdiction each state has over its maritime zones in accordance with international law.

**Your Excellency,**

October witnessed the continuation of escalation to the Middle East problem, whose core issue is the Palestinian question. Your Excellency had continuous exchange with His Majesty in efforts to de-escalate the situation and avoid our region further hardship that threatens all.

In this regard, Jordan highly appreciates Cyprus's principled stance vis-à-vis the Middle East Peace Process (MEPP), its support to a two state solution, and its backing to the Hashemite Custodianship of Jerusalem's Islamic and Christian holy sites. Further appreciation is due with regard to Cyprus's stance and contributions to UNRWA. This indispensable support alleviates the precarious humanitarian situation of the Palestinian refugees, creates prospects, reduces the risk of young people becoming radicalized and strengthens stability in the region.

Moreover, my country highly values Cyprus's continuous support rendered within the European Union at various fields. Jordan also values our bilateral past and

current cooperation in a number of fields; mainly women empowerment. Cyprus's contributions to Jordan Response Plan for Syrian Refugees and its contributions within the framework of Brussels Conference have been of great support to Jordan in facing the Syrian refugees' crisis.

Finally, allow me, your Excellency, to express my pride and joy in becoming a new member of the team to build on what has been achieved and continue on the path of fostering the excellent existing relations between our two friendly countries.

Thank you Mr President.

