



**Statement by the Republic of Cyprus in the Fourth Committee of the United Nations General Assembly at its 79<sup>th</sup> session on agenda item 51: Comprehensive Review of the whole question of peacekeeping operations in all their aspects**  
**New York, 11 November 2024**

Madame Chair,

The Republic of Cyprus aligns itself with the statement delivered by the European Union and, as Cyprus is both the host of a UN peacekeeping mission and a troop-contributor, I would like to make the following additional remarks in my national capacity.

At a time when the world faces multiple conflicts, escalating geopolitical tensions and multifaceted challenges that threaten international peace and security, Peacekeeping Operations (PKOs) have a vital role to play. For decades, PKOs have offered proof that multilateralism works, by helping countries navigate the difficult path from conflict to peace, thus making UN peacekeeping one of the most effective instruments for conflict mitigation and stabilization. In the face of evolving and divergent crises, where PKOs are called upon to move beyond traditional tasks, it has become necessary to enhance their effectiveness and adapt the tools at their disposal, in order to ensure they are truly fit for purpose and able to respond to the magnitude of challenges faced.

We welcome in this respect the Pact for the Future and the commitment to adapt peace operations, taking into account, among others, the priorities of host countries and the need for predictable, adequate and sustained financing.

PKOs need to be in operational readiness to fully implement their mandate, protect civilians, address violations to the military status quo and prevent the creation of faits accomplis on the ground that may hamper the resolution of conflicts. They must be sufficiently manned, equipped and financed in order to fulfil their mandate in a comprehensive manner. Furthermore, decisions as regards PKOs should not be based on political expediencies or financial constraints, but on the situation on the ground, while promoting a performance-centered approach, where cost-cutting does not affect a PKOs optimal functioning. Improving the performance of PKOs is of strategic importance if they are to effectively uphold the resolutions of the Security Council.

*Equitable gender representation within PKOs is an important component that further contributes to the improvement of their efficiency.* Cyprus supports the implementation of the Women, Peace and Security agenda and welcomes the increasing efforts for greater deployment of women in UN PKOs.

Cyprus also continues to support the work of the *Special Committee on Peacekeeping Operations (C34)* in, inter alia, implementing the Action for Peacekeeping Initiative, promoting a better operational structure and cooperation with regional partners.

Madame Chair,

As one of the longest-running PKOs in the world, the United Nations Force in Cyprus retains its significance in maintaining the ceasefire on the island, preventing escalation and protecting civilians. The continuous occupation of over a third of Cyprus' territory and constant violations by the occupation army of the sovereignty and territorial integrity of Cyprus, contrary to UNSC Resolutions, underscore the necessity of sustaining a peacekeeping force that prevents both the recurrence of fighting, as well as further advancements by the occupying power.

UNFICYP's mandate, as agreed to by the Republic of Cyprus, aims to uphold the Charter, implement the relevant UNSC Resolutions and act as a bulwark against the consolidation of the effects of aggression, by contributing to the restoration of law and order and ensuring a return to normal conditions. The success of this mission is currently being jeopardized by the acceptance of faits accomplis on the ground, such as the violations of the magnitude of the one being perpetrated in the fenced area of Varosha.

Within this context, Cyprus stresses the need for PKOs to have unimpeded access and freedom of movement in the areas they are mandated to operate in, so that they can fulfil their responsibility of reporting to the UNSC, among others. We further underline the need for the protection of peacekeepers and ensuring accountability for crimes against peacekeepers. Attacks against peacekeepers constitute a grave violation of International Law and parties to conflicts are obligated to safeguarding their safety and security.

Madame Chair,

We lastly take this opportunity to express our sincere appreciation to the Member States that have contributed personnel to UNFICYP over the years, to the men and women who have served under the blue beret in Cyprus, as well as pay tribute to those who have paid the ultimate price in the line of duty.

I thank you.