



**General Assembly
Security Council**

Distr.: General
28 April 2026

Original: English

**General Assembly
Eightieth session
Agenda item 40
Question of Cyprus**

**Security Council
Eighty-first year**

**Letter dated 24 April 2026 from the Permanent Representative of
Türkiye to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General**

I have the honour to transmit herewith a letter dated 22 April 2026, addressed to you by Murat Soysal, Representative of the Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus (see annex).

I would be grateful if the present letter and its annex could be circulated as a document of the General Assembly, under agenda item 40, and of the Security Council.

(Signed) Ahmet **Yıldız**
Ambassador
Permanent Representative



Annex to the letter dated 24 April 2026 from the Permanent Representative of Türkiye to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

I am writing with reference to the “Framework Agreement” concluded between the Greek Cypriot Administration and Egypt on 30 March 2026, on the margins of the “EGYPES 2026” conference held in Cairo, concerning the establishment of a framework for cooperation on the development, commercialization and potential export of natural gas resources located in “Cyprus’ exclusive economic zone”, in violation of the inalienable and inherent rights of the Turkish Cypriot people over the natural resources on and around the island. In this respect, I would like to respectfully draw your attention to our reservations as well as the key facts and considerations in this regard.

At the outset, I wish to stress the indisputable fact that the island of Cyprus and natural resources thereof, including hydrocarbon reserves on and around it, are co-owned by the Turkish Cypriot people. The Turkish Cypriot people have ipso facto and ab initio equal rights over these resources. This fact is well known by all relevant international actors, including the United Nations and the European Union.

Engagement by any country, party or energy company only with the Greek Cypriot side in the exploration, exploitation, development, commercialization or potential export of natural gas without the Turkish Cypriot people’s consent violates the legitimate and inalienable rights of the Turkish Cypriot people. Natural resources in and around the island of Cyprus belong to both peoples of the island and should be used with the consent of and for the benefit of the Turkish Cypriot and Greek Cypriot peoples.

As is well known, at the core of the Cyprus problem and the matters pertaining to it, including natural resources, stands the unlawful claim of the Greek Cypriot side to be the “government of the Republic of Cyprus”, the legitimacy of which ceased to exist when the Turkish Cypriots were forcibly ejected from all the organs of the State. As a matter of fact, there has not been a joint central administration capable of representing the entire island since 1963, but the Greek Cypriot side has continued to abuse the status quo to exploit and usurp the rights and interest of the Turkish Cypriot people. In this context, the Greek Cypriot administration, purporting to be the “Government of the Republic of Cyprus”, has no legal or moral right to represent or act on behalf of the Turkish Cypriot people or the entire island. As is known, the Turkish Cypriot side has made written representations to the United Nations and has put on record that any unilateral action by the Greek Cypriot side concerning natural resources, undertaken without the consent and joint decision of the Turkish Cypriot side, is entirely unacceptable, is not binding and constitutes a flagrant unilateral usurpation in disregard of the inherent and equal rights of the Turkish Cypriot people.

In this respect, I wish to underline that the “Framework Agreement” concluded between the Greek Cypriot administration and Egypt on 30 March 2026, on the margins of the “EGYPES 2026” conference held in Cairo, is null and void for the Turkish Cypriot side, and constitutes yet another unilateral attempt to create a fait accompli in this important matter.

The Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus harbours no other intention than to protect the Turkish Cypriot people’s inherent and equal rights and therefore expects all relevant parties to demonstrate the same respect to its people’s rights over the natural resources. Your repeated call that the two sides should “actively engage in discussions on existing cooperation proposals or new ideas” and “cooperate to jointly exploit and benefit from common natural resources” (most recently in your report dated 5 July 2024 (S/2024/526, para. 40)) continues to have the full support of the

Turkish Cypriot side, which indeed has long been making the same call to the Greek Cypriot side. I would also like to recall the reference in your report on the United Nations operation in Cyprus (S/2012/507), dated 29 June 2012, which refers in paragraph 36 to “wealth from natural resources, which belong to all Cypriots”.

On the issue of the hydrocarbon resources, the Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus has consistently maintained that cooperation, dialogue and diplomacy should be prioritized over unilateral actions intended to create *faits accomplis*, in order to prevent the escalation of tensions in the region. There is no doubt that cooperation between the two sides would also contribute to the stability and peace of the region as well as to the building of trust and interdependence. In this vein, in addition to our constructive proposals made to the Greek Cypriot side in 2011, 2012 and 2019, the Turkish Cypriot side made an updated proposal on 1 July 2022 as a fresh attempt to enable cooperation on hydrocarbons, which also included specific proposals for cooperation on other energy-related issues. Unfortunately, the Greek Cypriot administration to this day refuses the peaceful path of dialogue and cooperation with the Turkish Cypriot side.

It must also be borne in mind that any regional cooperation or forum on this issue that excludes the Turkish Cypriot side and Türkiye, which is a guarantor Power, is unrealistic as well as counterproductive, and can serve no purpose other than to increase tensions in the Eastern Mediterranean. In this regard, I would also like to reiterate that the Turkish Cypriot side, as the co-owner of hydrocarbon resources on and around the island, is ready to participate in an “Eastern Mediterranean Conference” as proposed by Türkiye in 2020 and 2022, which would take into account the legitimate rights and interests of all the relevant parties and stakeholders in the region and advance this issue towards an inclusive, legitimate and peaceful framework.

In view of the above, I hope and trust that you will guide and encourage the Greek Cypriot side to engage in dialogue aimed at establishing a cooperation mechanism on the natural resources on and around the island with the Turkish Cypriot side. An initiative encouraged by you in this regard would send a positive message to all parties concerned that the consent and effective participation of all parties in the decision-making process regarding natural resources are essential, and that all the sides retain their rights with respect to hydrocarbon resources on and around the island.

It would also send a positive message to all parties concerned if your upcoming reports on the mission of good offices as well as on the United Nations Peacekeeping Force in Cyprus openly urge the sides to cooperate in the field of hydrocarbon resources and call upon the international community to take the necessary steps to create the environment conducive to cooperation between the two sides on this important matter.

I should be grateful if the present letter could be circulated as a document of the General Assembly, under agenda item 40, and of the Security Council.

(Signed) Murat Soysal
Representative
Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus