

Europe

16. The situation in Cyprus

During the year 2021, the Security Council held two meetings, adopted two resolutions, and issued one presidential statement concerning the situation in Cyprus.⁵⁹⁶ More information on the meetings and outcomes is given in table 1 below. In addition, Council members held one open videoconference in connection with this item.⁵⁹⁷ More information on the videoconference is given in table 2 below. Council members also held a private meeting with countries contributing troops and police to the United Nations Peacekeeping Force in Cyprus (UNFICYP) pursuant to resolution [1353 \(2001\)](#).⁵⁹⁸ In addition to meetings and videoconferences, Council members also held a closed videoconference to discuss the situation in Cyprus.⁵⁹⁹

On 29 January 2021, further to the reports of the Secretary-General,⁶⁰⁰ Council members held an open videoconference at which the President of the Council announced the unanimous adoption of resolution [2561 \(2021\)](#), extending the mandate of UNFICYP for a period of six months, until 31 July 2021.⁶⁰¹ Recalling its resolution [2537 \(2020\)](#), the Council called upon the two leaders to consider the advice of the Good Offices Mission of the Secretary-General regarding further ways to empower the Technical Committees to improve their performance and to engage them more actively to ensure effective coordination and cooperation on health matters, particularly in response to the COVID-19 pandemic and other infectious diseases.⁶⁰² Regretting the lack of progress on an effective mechanism for direct military contacts between the sides and

⁵⁹⁶ For further information on the format of meetings, see part II, sect. II.

⁵⁹⁷ For more information on the procedures and working methods developed during the COVID-19 pandemic, see part II.

⁵⁹⁸ The private meeting was held on 15 July in connection with the item entitled “Meeting of the Security Council with the troop-and police-contributing countries pursuant to resolution 1353 (2001), annex II, sections A and B”; see [S/PV.8821](#) and [A/76/2](#) part II, chap. 20.

⁵⁹⁹ The closed videoconference was held on 19 January 2021 (at the time, consultations of the Council were held in the form of closed videoconferences, for more details on the procedures developed during the COVID-19 pandemic, see part II of this Supplement as well as *Repertoire, Supplement 2020*, part II); see [S/2021/938](#) and [A/76/2](#) part II, chap. 1.

⁶⁰⁰ See [S/2021/4](#) and [S/2021/5](#).

⁶⁰¹ Resolution [2561 \(2021\)](#), para. 9. For further information on the mandate of UNFICYP, see part X, sect. I. The resolution was adopted in accordance with the procedures developed during the COVID-19 pandemic, see part II of this Supplement as well as *Repertoire, Supplement 2020*, part II.

⁶⁰² *Ibid.*, para. 4.

the relevant involved parties, the Council requested the Secretary-General to report on the reasons behind the lack of progress, while urging the full engagement with the proposal on the establishment of such a mechanism presented by UNFICYP, and its timely implementation.⁶⁰³ To that end, the Council called on the Secretary-General to report on any actions that impede UNFICYP's ability to fulfil its mandate, and urged both sides to take all appropriate measures to ensure the safety and security of UNFICYP personnel.⁶⁰⁴

On 15 July 2021, the Council issued a presidential statement, by which it reaffirmed the status of Varosha as set out in previous resolutions and reiterated that any attempt to settle any part of Varosha by people other than its inhabitants was inadmissible and that no actions should be carried out in relation to Varosha that were not in accordance with its resolutions.⁶⁰⁵ Expressing its deep regret regarding unilateral actions that run contrary to its previous resolutions and statements, the Council condemned the announcement in Cyprus by Turkish and Turkish Cypriot leaders on 20 July 2021 on the further reopening of a part of the fenced-off area of Varosha.⁶⁰⁶ In that regard, the Council called for the immediate reversal of that course of action, including all steps taken on Varosha since October 2020, while underscoring the need to avoid any further unilateral actions not in accordance with its resolutions that could raise tensions on the island and harm prospects for a settlement.⁶⁰⁷ Stressing the importance of full respect and implementation of its resolutions, including the transfer of Varosha to United Nations administration and of respect for UNFICYP's freedom of movement, the Council further reaffirmed its commitment to an enduring, comprehensive and just settlement as set out in relevant resolutions, and its support for the Secretary-General's efforts.⁶⁰⁸

On 29 July 2021, at a meeting held further to the reports of the Secretary-General,⁶⁰⁹ the Council unanimously adopted resolution [2587 \(2021\)](#), extending the mandate of UNFICYP for a further period of six months, until 31 January 2022.⁶¹⁰ In the resolution, the Council welcomed

⁶⁰³ Ibid., para. 5.

⁶⁰⁴ Ibid., para. 10.

⁶⁰⁵ [S/PRST/2021/13](#), second paragraph.

⁶⁰⁶ Ibid., third paragraph.

⁶⁰⁷ Ibid., fourth paragraph.

⁶⁰⁸ Ibid., fifth and sixth paragraphs.

⁶⁰⁹ See [S/2021/634](#) and [S/2021/635](#).

⁶¹⁰ Resolution [2587 \(2021\)](#), para. 10.

the work of the Secretary-General and that of his team in convening the informal “five plus UN” meeting between the leaders of the two Cypriot Communities and the Guarantor Powers in Geneva on 27 to 29 April 2021, while noting with regret that sufficient common ground could not be found at the meeting to allow for the resumption of formal negotiations.⁶¹¹ The Council also regretted the impact that the largely uncoordinated responses to the COVID-19 pandemic had on bi-communal engagement.⁶¹² Recalling the importance of achieving an enduring, comprehensive and just settlement based on a bicomunal, bizonal federation with political equality, as set out in relevant Security Council resolutions, the Council fully supported the Secretary-General’s ongoing engagement and the agreement by the parties to convene a further round of informal talks, reiterating the importance of the sides and all involved participants to show the necessary political will and commitment to freely negotiate a mutually acceptable settlement under United Nations auspices.⁶¹³

Reiterating its regret on the ongoing lack of meaningful participation of women’s organizations and youth in the Settlement process, the Council called on the leaders of both sides to submit to the Secretary-General by 15 December 2021 an action plan, in coordination with the Technical Committee on Gender Equality, to increase women’s full, equal and meaningful participation in peace talks and to provide direct support and encouragement to civil society organizations aimed at enhancing inter-communal contact and trust-building. In that regard, the Council requested the Secretary-General to include that action plan in his Good Offices report, while noting his call to ensure the inclusion of at least 30 per cent women in future delegations.⁶¹⁴

Welcoming the establishment of a dialogue between the sides and the UN resulting in the reopening of the crossing points on 4 June, the Council called on the leaders to continue cooperation and to return the crossing points to the operating status that existed prior to 29 February 2020.⁶¹⁵ By the resolution, the Council requested the Secretary-General to submit by 3

⁶¹¹ Ibid., third preambular paragraph.

⁶¹² Ibid., tenth preambular paragraph.

⁶¹³ Ibid., paras. 1 and 2.

⁶¹⁴ Ibid., para. 5. For further information on the decisions of the Council containing measures in connection with the women and peace and security agenda, see part I, sect. 27.

⁶¹⁵ Resolution [2587 \(2021\)](#), para. 8.

January 2022 a report on his Good Offices encouraging the leaders of the two communities to provide written updates to the Good Offices Mission of the Secretary-General on the actions they had taken in support of the relevant parts of the resolution with a view to reaching a sustainable and comprehensive settlement. The Council also requested the Secretary-General to submit by 3 January 2022 a report on implementation of the resolution, drawing on analysis produced through the Comprehensive Performance Assessment System covering all components of the mission.⁶¹⁶

Table 1
Meetings: The situation in Cyprus

<i>Meeting and date</i>	<i>Sub-item</i>	<i>Other documents</i>	<i>Rule 37 invitations</i>	<i>Rule 39 and other invitations</i>	<i>Speakers</i>	<i>Decision and vote (for-against-abstaining)</i>
S/PV.8824 23 July 2021						S/PRST/2021/13
S/PV.8827 29 July 2021	Report of the Secretary-General on his mission of good offices in Cyprus (S/2021/634)	Draft resolution submitted by the United Kingdom (S/2021/687)				Resolution 2587 (2021) 15-0-0
	Report of the Secretary-General on the United Nations operation in Cyprus (S/2021/635)					

Table 2
Videoconferences: The situation in Cyprus

<i>Videoconference date</i>	<i>Videoconference record</i>	<i>Title</i>	<i>Decision and vote (for-against-abstaining) and record of written procedure</i>
29 January 2021	S/2021/99	Letter dated 29 January 2021 from the President of the Security Council addressed to the Secretary-General and the Permanent Representatives of the members of the Security Council	Resolution 2561 (2021) 15-0-0 S/2021/96 Record of written procedure

⁶¹⁶ Ibid., para. 19. For further information on the comprehensive performance assessment system for other missions, see part X, sect. I.