

## **STATEMENT BY TURKEY**

The delegation of the Republic of Turkey makes the following statement in response to the statement by the delegation of Greek Cypriot Administration of Southern Cyprus, which was published among the meeting documents of the First Session of “Group of Experts on Benchmarking Transport Infrastructure Construction Costs”.

The “Republic of Cyprus” was a Partnership State founded upon the basis of three international treaties in 1960, namely the Treaties of Establishment, Guarantee and Alliance. The 1960 Republic reflected this bi-communal partnership based on the political equality of the two peoples as co-founder partners of the new Republic.

The two peoples were political equals. They shared the legislative, executive, judicial and other functions. Sovereignty devolved through a joint exercise of self-determination between the two. However, this Partnership State was destroyed by force in 1963 by the Greek Cypriots.

The Greek Cypriot leadership, in collusion with Greece, drew up the notorious “Akritas Plan”, which envisaged the dissolution of the “Republic of Cyprus” and the unification of the Island with Greece (“Enosis”). In addition to the Greek armed onslaught against the Turkish community, the Turkish Cypriots were systematically excluded from state institutions and were forced to live in enclaves corresponding to 3% of Cyprus. The Greek Cypriots subsequently conducted an armed ethnic cleansing campaign against them from 1963 to 1974. When this culminated with a coup d’état in 1974 aiming to annex the Island to Greece, Turkey was left with no other option but to exercise its rights and obligations emanating from the 1960 Treaties. Since then, the Turkish forces have been the only factor preventing the repetition of earlier tragedies. The existence of the Turkish forces on the Island therefore stems from the 1960 international treaties, within the framework of Turkey’s rights and obligations as a guarantor power. Allegations of invasion are thus totally incompatible with the facts on the ground, the 1960 Treaties and the nature of the UN comprehensive settlement process.

Since the Greek Cypriots’ effective hijacking of the state, there has been no single authority which in law or in fact is competent to represent jointly the Turkish Cypriots and the Greek Cypriots, consequently Cyprus as a whole. As such, the Greek Cypriot Administration is entitled to neither negotiate and conclude international agreements nor adopt laws on behalf of the whole Island.

Turkey regards the Greek Cypriot authorities as exercising authority, control and jurisdiction only in the territory south of the buffer zone, as is currently the case, as not representing the Turkish Cypriot people and will treat the acts performed by them accordingly. Turkish Cypriots, who were excluded from the Partnership State in 1963 and who as a people organized themselves under their constitutional order within the territorial boundaries of the Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus, exercise governmental authority, jurisdiction and sovereignty.