

STATEMENT BY TURKEY
ON AGENDA ITEM 158 FINANCING OF THE UNITED NATIONS
PEACEKEEPING FORCE IN CYPRUS (UNFICYP)
FIFTH COMMITTEE-2ND PART OF THE RESUMED 75TH SESSION
5 MAY 2021

Mr. Chair,

We would like to thank the UN Secretariat and the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions (ACABQ) for submitting their respective reports for individual peacekeeping missions. We extend our

Committee on the budgetary and operational elements of Peacekeeping Operations. We will advocate greater clarity and transparency in how resources are linked to mandated tasks, while ensuring flexibility in view of unpredictable conditions COVID-19 has posed.

With reference to the reports of the Secretary-General and ACABQ on the 2019-2020 budget performance and to the proposed budget of the United Nations Peacekeeping Force in Cyprus (UNFICYP) for 2021-

In addition, the asymmetrical figures regarding the “national staff” employed at UNFICYP also attest to the lack of balance in UNFICYP’s approach. The share of Turkish Cypriots and Greek Cypriots in this category, %17.6 and %64.7 respectively, inevitably raises the question as to how, in this case, UNFICYP is supposed to be impartial towards the two co-owners of the island, namely the Turkish Cypriot people and the Greek Cypriot people.

Similarly, the so-called “voluntary contributions” of the Greek Cypriot administration to UNFICYP, which is also reflected in the responses provided by the Secretariat to the ACABQ, seriously undermines the credibility of UNFICYP as it causes a conflict of interest between UNFICYP and the Greek Cypriot side. We are concerned with potential risks this may cause for UNFICYP’s activities, including, but not limited to, reporting of the violations by the Greek Cypriot side in the buffer zone and along the ceasefire line.

Last, but not least, the Secretariat’s responses on demining operations in Cyprus contain information which cannot be considered factually correct. In this regard, the information that in 2017 the two leaders requested UNFICYP to stop